OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JANUARY 2013

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 14

Song 52 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

jr chap. 4 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Matthew 7-11 (10 min.)

No. 1: Matthew 10:24-42 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Be Discerning, and Avoid Following Unrealities—1 Sam. 12:21; Prov. 23:4, 5 (5 min.)

No. 3: What Are Proper Matters About Which to Pray?—*rs* p. 294 ¶4–p. 295 ¶3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 73

10 min: Give Practical Assistance. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 188, paragraph 4, to page 189, paragraph 4. Briefly interview someone who was helped to make progress because of the personal interest shown by others.

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Matthew 4:1-11 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.

10 min: "Give a Thorough Witness." Questions and answers.

Song 92 and Prayer

"Give a Thorough Witness"

1 "Do your service thoroughly." (2 Tim. 4:5, *Byington*) The apostle Paul certainly had freeness of speech in giving this admonition to Timothy. In fact, between the years 47 and 56 C.E., Paul completed three missionary journeys. The book of Acts makes repeated mention of Paul's bearing "thorough witness." (Acts 23:11; 28:23) How can we do so in our day?

1. What fine example did the apostle Paul set in the ministry?

2 **From House to House:** In an effort to contact householders who have never heard the good news, we may need to call at a different time of the day. The man of the house may be at home in the evening hours or on the weekend. We should endeavor to speak with someone at each residence, calling repeatedly at not-at-homes. What if your efforts to reach someone are unsuccessful? Perhaps a letter or a telephone call will yield good results.

3 **Publicly and Informally:** Jehovah's servants today make known "true wisdom" to all who will listen. Sometimes this occurs "in the very street" or "in the public squares." (Prov. 1: 20, 21) When going about our daily routine, are we conscious of giving a witness? Can it be said that we are "intensely occupied with the word"? (Acts 18:5) If so, then we are fulfilling our obligation to "give a thorough witness." —Acts 10:42; 17:17; 20:20, 21, 24.

4 At times, though, because of personal weakness or inherent shyness, we may hold back from giving a witness. For a certainty, Jehovah understands our limitations. (Ps. 103: 14) Nevertheless, when such occasions arise, we can pray to him for courage to speak up. (Acts 4:29, 31) Also, when doing personal study and meditating on God's Word, we can focus on deepening our appreciation for the excelling value of the good news. (Phil. 3:8) This will move us to declare it with zeal!

5 The prophecy of Joel foretold that before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Jehovah, God's people would "keep going" and not let anything deter them from preaching. (Joel 2:2, 7-9) May we be fully involved in this never-to-be-repeated witnessing work!

2. How can we give a thorough witness when preaching from house to house?
3. What opportunities do you have to witness publicly and informally?
4. How do prayer and meditation contribute to our giving a thorough witness?
5. How can we share in the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy?

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 21

Song 61 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 4 ¶9-14 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Matthew 12-15 (10 min.)
No. 1: Matthew 14:23–15:11 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: If Someone Says, 'Pray With Me First, Then Give Me Your Message'—*rs* p. 295 ¶4-5 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Can We Learn From Isaac's Example as a Peacemaker?—Gen. 26:19-22 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 32
10 min: Declare the Good News Without Letup. (Acts 5:42) Interview one or two publishers who are known as zealous evangelizers. What helps them to view the ministry as a priority? What do they do to prepare for the ministry? How has the ministry strengthened them spiritually?
10 min: Our Fine Conduct Gives a Witness. (1 Pet. 2:12) Discussion based on the *2012 Yearbook,* page 106, paragraph 1; page 133, paragraph 2; and page 146, paragraph 3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
10 min: "Would You Benefit From Having a Personal Territory?" Questions and answers.
Song 96 and Prayer

Would You Benefit From Having a Personal Territory?

[1] What is a personal territory? Available in congregations where territory is plentiful, it is a territory of your own, perhaps one near where you live. The *Organized* book, page 103, explains: "Having a conveniently located personal territory will enable you to make the most of the time you can devote to field service. Also, you may wish to invite another publisher to work with you in your personal territory."

[2] **To Supplement Group Witnessing:** If you obtain a personal territory near your work, you can share in the ministry during your lunch break or before returning home, perhaps with another publisher who works nearby. If you obtain a territory near your home, you and your family can conveniently use it for evening witnessing. Of course, if you do not attend a meeting for field service, it is appropriate to pray for Jehovah's direction before you start preaching. (Phil. 4:6) In addition, you should balance the time you work in a personal territory with the time you support the congregation's group witnessing arrangements. Especially on the weekends, when many meet for field service, it is generally best to support your field service group.

[3] **Benefits:** If you have a personal territory, you have somewhere to preach whenever your schedule allows. You can devote more time to preaching and spend less time on travel. The increased flexibility allows some to auxiliary or regular pioneer. Since the householders who show interest are in the same neighborhood, it is easier to make return visits and conduct Bible studies. Many find that preaching in a personal territory helps them to get acquainted with the householders and cultivate their trust, especially if the territory can be worked more than once before turning it in so that others may request it. Would working a personal territory help you and your family to accomplish your ministry more fully? —2 Tim. 4:5.

1. What is a personal territory?
2. How may a personal territory be used to supplement group witnessing?
3. What are the benefits of having a personal territory?

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WEEK STARTING JANUARY 28

Song 29 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 4 ¶15-20 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Matthew 16-21 (10 min.)
No. 1: Matthew 17:22–18:10 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: What "Good Words" of Jehovah Did Joshua See Come True?—Josh. 23:14 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Are Some of the Outstanding Bible Prophecies That Are Yet to Be Fulfilled?—*rs* p. 296 ¶2–p. 297 ¶3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 134
***5 min:* Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday.** Using the sample presentation on page 4, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in February. Encourage all to have a share.
25 min: "Have Love for the Whole Association of Brothers." Questions and answers. Use the information in the first and last paragraphs for a brief introduction and conclusion.
Song 53 and Prayer

"Have Love for the Whole Association of Brothers"

The inspired words of this title were written down nearly two thousand years ago. (1 Pet. 2:17) But we need to apply them now more than ever! How can we love something as vast as a global brotherhood? And in this loveless world, how can we make sure that our love never fades? (Matt. 24:12) See if you can answer the following questions while watching the video *Our Whole Association of Brothers.*

(1) When did we formally become part of our Christian brotherhood? **(2)** What three activities do we share in common with our worldwide brotherhood? **(3)** How are our brothers showing their determination to preach (a) in the Alaskan wilderness, (b) in the vast harbors of Europe, and (c) in the dense forests of Peru? **(4)** Why should we never feel that preaching is just an ordinary work? **(5)** Give examples of how Jehovah's Witnesses have comforted and supported one another (a) after an earthquake, (b) after a hurricane, and (c) during civil war? **(6)** In what practical ways can all of us demonstrate the great identifying mark of our Christian brotherhood? (John 13:35) **(7)** What are the benefits of working together to build our own Kingdom Halls? **(8)** How did our brothers in Eastern Europe and Russia survive spiritually when the work was under ban? **(9)** What extraordinary effort do many Witnesses put forth to attend conventions, and why? **(10)** How has this video strengthened your determination (a) to worship Jehovah at Christian meetings in unity with your brothers, (b) to help others in times of need, and (c) to preach faithfully whenever and however you can? **(11)** How and when can we use this video in the ministry?

Our main reason for being a part of our Christian brotherhood is our love for Jehovah. So we love to learn about him and to teach others about him. And we love the people whom Jehovah loves. When we help them in times of need, we do not expect God to thank us. Instead, we thank God because we view our Christian brotherhood as a precious gift from him. As the last days of this loveless world are winding down, may we continue to demonstrate love for the whole association of brothers!

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 4

Song 70 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 5 ¶1-6, box on page 55 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Matthew 22-25 (10 min.)
No. 1: Matthew 23:25-39 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Should Christians Be Keenly Interested in the Bible's Predictions?—*rs* p. 297 ¶4-8 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Bible Examples Illustrate the Wisdom Recorded at Proverbs 3:5? (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 37
10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in February. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to suggest interest-arousing questions to ask and then invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
10 min: If Someone Says, 'I Don't Believe in God.' Discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, page 150, paragraph 3, to the end of page 151. Include one brief demonstration.
10 min: Local needs.
Song 95 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **January and February:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?, When Someone You Love Dies,* or *You Can Be God's Friend!* When making return visits, introduce the *Bible Teach* book or if more appropriate to the person's needs, one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever,* and try to start a Bible study. **March and April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits, introduce the *Bible Teach* book or if more appropriate to the person's needs, one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever,* and try to start a Bible study.

■ The title of the public talk to be given by the circuit overseer during the second half of the 2013 service year is "Good News . . . to Every Nation and Tribe and Tongue."

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed for spring cleaning on Friday, May 10, 2013. There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on this day. Also, there will be no arrangement for tours on the day of the Memorial, Tuesday, March 26, 2013.

■ Since March has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in February

"Many people feel that the Devil is behind the evil in the world. But they wonder: 'Where did the Devil come from? Did God create him?' What do you think? [Allow for response.] Notice what we read here." Show the article on the back of the February 1 *Watchtower,* and consider the first paragraph and the cited scripture. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM February 1

"We'd like to get your opinion about someone who is highly respected by Christians, Jews, and Muslims alike. That person is Moses. What's the first thing you think of when you hear his name? [Allow for response.] Although he made mistakes, it is interesting how the Bible describes Moses. [Read Deuteronomy 34:10-12.] This magazine considers three of his good qualities and how we can imitate him."

Awake!® February

"It is common these days for people to immigrate to another country in search of a better life. Do you think that they always find what they are looking for? [Allow for response.] Immigration is not something new. Notice this example from the very first book of the Bible. [Read Genesis 46:5, 6.] This magazine examines these questions." Show the householder the questions at the end of page 6.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

FEBRUARY 2013

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 11

Song 106 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 5 ¶7-12 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Matthew 26-28 (10 min.)

No. 1: Matthew 27:24-44 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: How Does God's Patience Lead to Salvation?—2 Pet. 3:9, 15 (5 min.)

No. 3: If Someone Says, 'You Put Too Much Emphasis on Prophecy'—*rs* p. 298 ¶1-2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 31

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Matthew 6:19-21 and Luke 16:13 read. Consider how these accounts can help us in our ministry.

20 min: "Will *You* Auxiliary Pioneer?" Questions and answers by the service overseer. After considering paragraph 2, briefly interview two publishers who plan to auxiliary pioneer during March, one who works full-time and one who has limitations because of poor health. What adjustments do they plan to make in order to pioneer? After considering paragraph 3, have a demonstration of a married couple or a family with children taking time during their Family Worship evening to make specific arrangements to expand their ministry.

Song 122 and Prayer

Will *You* Auxiliary Pioneer?

1 The Memorial season is a good time to expand our ministry. It is a time when we reflect on Jehovah's great love in providing his Son as a ransom. (John 3:16) This causes appreciation to well up in our heart, deepening our desire to tell others about Jehovah and what he is doing for mankind. (Isa. 12:4, 5; Luke 6: 45) It is also a time when we enjoy a special campaign to invite acquaintances and people in the territory to attend the Memorial with us. Afterward, we endeavor to further the interest of those who attended. Will you expand your ministry by auxiliary pioneering during March, April, or May?

1. Why is the Memorial season a good time to expand our ministry?

2 **Make March a Special Month:** March will be an especially good month to auxiliary pioneer. Those who apply can choose an hour requirement of either 30 hours or 50 hours. If the visit of the circuit overseer falls during March, auxiliary pioneers may attend the *entire* meeting that he has with the regular and special pioneers. The campaign to extend invitations to the Memorial, which will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, has been lengthened from previous years and will begin on March 1. Additionally, March has five full weekends. So why not seriously consider if you can join in making this the most special month of the year?

3 **Plan Now:** Now is the time to review your schedule and see what adjustments are needed in order for you to pioneer. Family cooperation will be important, so take time during your Family Worship evening to discuss your family's goals and make a schedule. (Prov. 15: 22) If you are not able to auxiliary pioneer, do not be discouraged. Could you adjust your schedule to stay out longer on the days you do go out? Could you go in the ministry an additional day during the week?

4 As we increase our activity during March, April, and May, we will increase the joy and satisfaction that we receive from serving Jehovah and giving to others. (John 4:34; Acts 20:35) More important, our self-sacrificing efforts will bring joy to Jehovah.—Prov. 27:11.

2. What makes March an especially good month to auxiliary pioneer?
3. How can we make plans to increase our ministry?
4. What benefits will result from increasing our activity during March, April, and May?

WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 18

Song 52 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 5 ¶13-18 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Mark 1-4 (10 min.)

No. 1: Mark 2:18–3:6 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: On What Is the Teaching of Purgatory Based?—*rs* p. 299 ¶1-6 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Are We to Understand Paul's Advice Recorded at 1 Corinthians 7:29-31? (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 92

15 min: Preach the Word in Troublesome Season. (2 Tim. 4:2) Discussion based on the *2012 Yearbook,* page 72, paragraphs 1-2; page 110; page 156, paragraph 1, to page 157, paragraph 1; and page 179, paragraph 3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

15 min: "Campaign to Advertise the Memorial Begins March 1." Questions and answers. Distribute a copy of the invitation to each one in the audience, and discuss its contents. When considering paragraph 2, invite the service overseer to outline local arrangements for covering the territory. When considering paragraph 3, use the sample presentation to demonstrate how the invitation might be offered.

Song 8 and Prayer

Campaign to Advertise the Memorial Begins March 1

1 On Friday, March 1, we will begin our annual campaign to invite others to attend the Memorial with us. The Memorial will be on March 26, which means that the campaign will be a little longer than in past years. This will give more people an opportunity to receive an invitation, especially if they happen to live in an area where the congregation has a large amount of territory.

1. When will we begin to advertise the Memorial, and why is the campaign longer this year?

2 **Getting Organized:** The elders will give direction on how the territory will be covered, including whether the invitations should be left at not-at-homes. If invitations remain after finishing the house-to-house territories, they may be distributed through public witnessing. The service overseer will make sure that a supply of labeled invitations is placed on the literature or magazine counter for the publishers to take, but the invitations will not be put out all at once. *We should take only the amount that we will need for one week at a time.*

3 **What Will We Say?** It is best to be brief, as this will allow us to reach as many people as possible. Page 4 has a sample presentation that we can tailor to our territory. Of course, we do not need to rush away if the householder is friendly or has questions. When sharing in the distribution on the weekends, we should also offer the magazines when appropriate. On March 2, we will focus on distributing invitations rather than on starting Bible studies.

4 We hope that many will join us for the Memorial. The talk will explain who Jesus really is. (1 Cor. 11:26) It will outline how his death helps us. (Rom. 6:23) And it will highlight why it is important that we remember him. (John 17:3) May we have a zealous share in the campaign!

2. What are the arrangements for obtaining copies of invitations and covering the territory?

3. What should we keep in mind when offering the invitation?

4. Why should we have a zealous share in the campaign?

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WEEK STARTING FEBRUARY 25

Song 120 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 6 ¶1-6 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Mark 5-8 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 135

***5* min: "Must You Stop?"** Discussion.

10 min: The Message We Must Proclaim —"Bearing Witness to Jesus." Enthusiastic talk based on the *Ministry School* book, from the subheading on page 275 to the end of page 278.

15 min: Jehovah Strengthens Us to Preach. (Phil. 4:13) Interview two or three publishers who have a zealous share in the ministry despite health problems. What challenges do they face? What helps them to avoid prolonged discouragement? How has the congregation given them practical assistance? How have they benefited from having a regular share in the ministry?

Song 42 and Prayer

Must You Stop?

When sharing in field service, some publishers customarily stop at a certain time, perhaps at noon. Of course, the circumstances of some may require that they end their field ministry at a specific time. But do you discontinue your preaching simply because others in the group do or because it is the custom in your area to stop at a certain time? Could you extend your ministry for a few more minutes and engage in some form of public witnessing, such as street witnessing? Can you make a return visit or two on the way home? Think of how much good you will accomplish if you find just one interested person at home again or if you place just one more set of magazines with a passerby! If we do not have to stop, staying out a few minutes longer is a simple way to increase our "sacrifice of praise."—Heb. 13:15.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 25, 2013. The date when each point is scheduled for discussion is included so that research can be done when preparing for the school each week.

1. Why did Jesus say that "those who mourn" would be happy? (Matt. 5:4) [Jan. 7, *w09* 2/15 p. 6 par. 6]
2. In the model prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, what did he mean when he said: "Do not bring us into temptation"? (Matt. 6:13) [Jan. 7, *w04* 2/1 p. 16 par. 13]
3. Why did Jesus say that his disciples would not complete their circuit of preaching "until the Son of man arrives"? (Matt. 10:23) [Jan. 14, *w10* 9/15 p. 10 par. 12; *w87* 8/1 p. 8 par. 6]
4. What two things does Jesus' illustration of the mustard grain highlight? (Matt. 13:31, 32) [Jan. 21, *w08 7/15* pp. 17-18 pars. 3-8]
5. What lesson was Jesus teaching when he said: "Unless you turn around and become as young children, you will by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens"? (Matt. 18:3) [Jan. 28, *w07* 2/1 pp. 9-10 pars. 3-4]
6. What is the meaning of Jesus' words "you yourself said it"? (Matt. 26:63, 64) [Feb. 11, *w11* 6/1 p. 18]
7. Why is Jesus called "Lord even of the sabbath"? (Mark 2:28) [Feb. 18, *w08* 2/15 p. 28 par. 7]
8. Why did Jesus respond as he did regarding his mother and his brothers, and what does this teach us? (Mark 3:31-35) [Feb. 18, *w08* 2/15 p. 29 par. 5]
9. As recorded at Mark 8:22-25, why may Jesus have restored the blind man's sight in two steps, and what can we learn from this? [Feb. 25, *w00* 2/15 p. 17 par. 7]
10. What do we learn from the way Jesus reacted to Peter's rebuke at Mark 8:32-34? [Feb. 25, *w08* 2/15 p. 29 par. 6]

WEEK STARTING MARCH 4

Song 62 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 6 ¶7-12, box on p. 73 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Mark 9-12 (10 min.)
No. 1: Mark 11:19–12:11 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Is Further Punishment for Sin Exacted After One's Death?—*rs* p. 300 ¶2-6 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why Making a Personal Dedication to God Leads to Happiness—Acts 20:35 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 7
10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in March. Discussion. Invite comments on the following questions: During the weekends that we are distributing the invitation, what factors will determine whether you will also offer the magazines? What could you say to make the transition from the invitation to the magazines? Although the sample presentations include a question and a scripture, how might you shorten your presentation? Demonstrate how each issue may be offered along with the invitation.
10 min: Benefit from *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2013*. Discussion. Briefly consider the yeartext found on pages 3-4 and "How to Use This Booklet," on page 5. Then invite audience to relate when they have set aside time to consider the text and how they have benefited. Conclude by encouraging all to consider the text each day.
10 min: Local needs.
Song 119 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **February:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?, When Someone You Love Dies,* or *You Can Be God's Friend!* When making return visits, introduce the *Bible Teach* book or if more appropriate to the person's needs, one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever,* and try to start a Bible study. **March and April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits, introduce the *Bible Teach* book or if more appropriate to the person's needs, one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever,* and try to start a Bible study. **May:** Feature one of the following tracts: *Enjoy Family Life, Who Really Rules the World?, Why You Can Trust the Bible,* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* If there is interest, demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book or one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

■ A new Memorial talk outline has been prepared and should be used by all Memorial speakers beginning in 2013. This year, the talk has a title, namely: "Appreciate What Christ Has Done for You!"

■ The special public talk for the 2013 Memorial season will be entitled "Does Death End It All?"

■ Since March has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

For the Memorial Invitation Campaign

"We're here to give your family this invitation to an important annual observance being held worldwide on March 26. That date is the anniversary of Jesus' death. A free Bible talk will be given that explains how his death helps us. The invitation shows the address and time of the meeting being held in our community."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM March 1

"Some have asked this question, 'How do we know for sure that Jesus was resurrected?' Have you ever wondered about that? [Allow for response.] Notice why the answer is important. [Read 1 Corinthians 15:14.] This magazine explains how we know that the resurrection wasn't a hoax."

Awake!® March

"Would you agree that this is not an easy time to raise a family? [Allow for response.] Many parents have found good advice in the Bible. For example, this verse has helped fathers to look for opportunities to commend their children and build their self-confidence. [Read Colossians 3:21.] This article outlines five basic principles to help fathers."

Field Service Highlights

We are happy to report three new all-time peaks during the month of August! The total number of publishers increased to 523 in Bermuda, 332 in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and 1,203,642 in the United States. Also, when compared with the same month during the previous year, the number of regular pioneers increased by 10.4 percent in the Bahamas, 4.6 percent in Bermuda, 36.1 percent in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and 5 percent in the United States. Clearly, Jehovah's people are "zealous for fine works."—Titus 2:14.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MARCH 2013

WEEK STARTING MARCH 11

Song 68 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 6 ¶13-18, box on p. 74 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Mark 13-16 (10 min.)
No. 1: Mark 14:22-42 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: What Is the Significance of the Memorial?—*rs* p. 266 ¶1–p. 267 ¶1 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Do the Memorial Emblems Represent?—*rs* p. 267 ¶2-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 109
10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Matthew 10:7-10 and Luke 10:1-4 read. Consider how these accounts can help us in our ministry.
10 min: Ways to Expand Your Ministry —Part 1. Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 111, paragraph 1, to page 112, paragraph 2. Interview one or two publishers who have moved or learned another language in order to expand their ministry. What challenges did they have to overcome? How did their family or the congregation assist them? What blessings have they enjoyed?
10 min: "Prepare for the Memorial With a Joyful Heart." Questions and answers. Review local arrangements for the Memorial. Report on the local progress of the invitation campaign.
Song 8 and Prayer

Prepare for the Memorial With a Joyful Heart

[1] The Memorial on Tuesday, March 26, provides an excellent opportunity to rejoice in God's means of salvation. (Isa. 61:10) Even before the upcoming observance, a joyful spirit will help us to be well-prepared. How so?

[2] **Preparing for the Observance:** The Lord's Evening Meal is a profound yet simple observance. Still, it requires advance planning so that important details are not overlooked. (Prov. 21:5) The time and a suitable location must be selected. The proper emblems need to be obtained. The meeting place has to be cleaned and readied. The designated speaker needs to prepare carefully, and the servers and attendants must be organized. No doubt much of this has already been done. Gratitude for the saving power of the ransom moves us to prepare well for this sacred occasion.—1 Pet. 1:8, 9.

[3] **Preparing the Heart:** It is also essential to prepare our heart to appreciate the full significance of the Memorial. (Ezra 7:10) To that end, we should set aside time to consider the special Memorial Bible reading and then ponder the final days of Jesus' earthly life. Meditating on Jesus' self-sacrificing spirit will motivate us to imitate him.—Gal. 2:20.

[4] Christ's death vindicates Jehovah's sovereignty. It gives release from sin and death. (1 John 2:2) It opens the way for peaceful relations with God and the way to eternal life. (Col. 1:21, 22) It also helps us to strengthen our resolve to live up to our dedication to Jehovah and remain firm as Christ's disciples. (Matt. 16:24) As you prepare for and attend the upcoming Memorial, may your joy be increased!

1. The Memorial season is a special time to do what?
2. What impels us to make preparations for the Memorial observance?
3. How can we prepare our heart for the Lord's Evening Meal?
4. Which benefit of the ransom gives you the greatest joy?

WEEK STARTING MARCH 18

Song 120 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 6 ¶19-24, box on p. 78 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Luke 1-3 (10 min.)

No. 1: Luke 1:24-45 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Who Should Partake of the Emblems at the Lord's Evening Meal?—*rs* p. 267 ¶5–p. 268 ¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Often Should the Memorial Be Commemorated, and When?—*rs* p. 269 ¶1-2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 118

12 min: "Welcome Them!" Questions and answers. Have a two-part demonstration showing a publisher taking the initiative to welcome a visitor and then, after the program concludes, tactfully making arrangements to further the person's interest.

18 min: "How to Use *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?*" Questions and answers. Have a seven-minute demonstration of a publisher discussing one of the lessons with a Bible student.

Song 20 and Prayer

Welcome Them!

[1] No occasion offers us a better opportunity to give a witness than the annual Memorial observance. Consider: This year over ten million visitors are expected to attend the Memorial and hear about the two greatest expressions of love, which were manifested by the ransom. (John 3:16; 15:13) They will learn about the blessings available to them because of Jehovah's gift. (Isa. 65:21-23) However, the speaker is not the only one who will give a witness on this occasion. All in attendance will have the opportunity to give a powerful witness by warmly welcoming the visitors.—Rom. 15:7.

[2] Rather than just finding your seat and silently waiting for the program to begin, why not take the initiative to introduce yourself to those nearby? Visitors may be nervous and unsure of what to expect. Our warm smile and friendly greeting will go a long way toward putting them at ease. To find out if someone is present as a result of receiving an invitation, you might ask if this is his first time attending one of our meetings or if he knows anyone in the congregation. Perhaps you can invite him to sit with you and share your Bible and songbook. If a Kingdom Hall is being used, it may be possible to give him a brief tour. After the talk, make yourself available to answer his questions. If your congregation must leave quickly to make room for another congregation, you might say: "I'd like to hear what you thought of the program. Is there a way that I can contact you?" Then make arrangements to follow up on the interest. Elders will especially want to be alert to encourage inactive publishers who attend.

[3] For many visitors, this will be their first taste of the joy, peace, and unity of the spiritual paradise that we enjoy as Jehovah's people. (Ps. 29:11; Isa. 11:6-9; 65:13, 14) What impression will visitors take away? Much will depend on our taking the initiative to welcome them.

1. What occasion offers us an excellent opportunity to give a witness, and why?

2. How can we warmly welcome visitors?

3. Why is it important that we take the initiative to welcome visitors at the Memorial?

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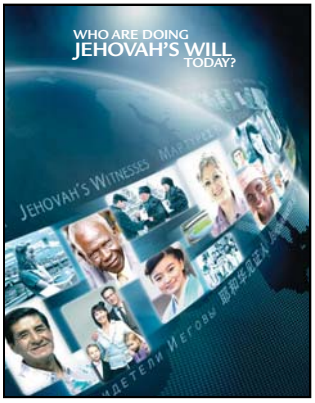
How to Use *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?*

New Brochure Designed to Direct Bible Students to the Organization

[1] Have you started using the new brochure *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?* Its purpose is (1) to familiarize Bible students with us as a people, (2) to help them learn about our activities, and (3) to show them our organization in action. The *Jehovah's Will* brochure contains one-page lessons that can easily be covered in just five to ten minutes at the end of each study.

[2] **How It Is Designed:** The brochure is divided into three sections, each of which discusses a different aspect of Jehovah's organization, as noted above. The title of each of the 28 lessons is written as a question, and the bold subheadings that follow answer that question. Photographs from over 50 countries are labeled throughout to show the international scope of our work. A number of lessons have "Find Out More" boxes, which contain suggestions that you can encourage your student to pursue.

[3] **How You Can Use It:** Start by calling attention to the question that is the title of the lesson. Then, as you read the lesson together, highlight the bold subheadings. Finally, consider the review questions at the bottom of the page. You can read the lesson straight through or read and discuss it in sections. Use your judgment in deciding which cited scriptures to read. Do not forget to consider the pictures and the "Find Out More" boxes. In most cases, the lessons should be discussed in order. However, feel free to jump ahead to a lesson that deals with something of immediate interest. For example, if an assembly or a convention is coming up, you could skip to lesson 11.



[4] When we study the Bible with someone, we help him to get acquainted with our heavenly Father. However, we also need to teach him about Jehovah's organization. (Prov. 6:20) How happy we are to have this new tool that makes it easy to do so!

1. What is the threefold purpose of the *Jehovah's Will* brochure?
2. Describe the design and features of this brochure.
3. How can we use the *Jehovah's Will* brochure?
4. Why are you happy to have this new tool?

WEEK STARTING MARCH 25

Song 76 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 7 ¶1-6 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Luke 4-6 (10 min.)
No. 1: Luke 4:22-39 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: From Where Did the Various Races Come?—*rs* p. 301 ¶1-4 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Proof Is There That Jesus Was Resurrected?—1 Cor. 15:3-7 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 111
5 min: Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday. Using the sample presentation on page 8, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in April. Encourage all to have a share.
25 min: "How to Use *Good News From God!*" Questions and answers. When considering paragraph 6, have two demonstrations.
Song 97 and Prayer

How to Use *Good News From God!*

New Brochure Designed to Help Us Make Return Visits and Start Bible Studies

[1] During the "Safeguard Your Heart!" District Convention, we were excited to receive a new brochure to help us make return visits and start Bible studies. *Good News From God!* is similar to the *Require* brochure, which it replaces, in that the lessons are concise. This lends itself to using the brochure for doorstep Bible studies. However, while the *Require* brochure discussed Christian requirements, which can be challenging for new students to accept, this new brochure focuses on the good news found in the Bible.—Acts 15:35.

[2] Why was it produced? Brothers around the world have been asking for something simple that would attract people to the truth and lead into the *Bible Teach* book, our primary tool for Bible studies. People who are intimidated by a book are often more willing to study the Bible using a brochure. In addition, a brochure is more easily translated into a large number of languages.

[3] **How It Is Designed:** Many of our study publications are written so that a

1. What new brochure released at the "Safeguard Your Heart!" District Convention is designed to help us make return visits and start Bible studies?

2. Why was the *Good News* brochure produced?

3. How is this brochure different from other study publications?

person can read it and understand the truth, even without help. This publication is different. It is written as a guide for Bible study *with an instructor.* Therefore, when offering it to someone, it is best to *discuss* a paragraph or two. The paragraphs are short, so they can even be considered at a person's doorstep or his place of business. While lesson 1 is a good place to begin, we can start a study almost anywhere in the brochure.

4 In many of our publications, the answers to the printed questions can be found in the paragraphs. However, in this publication, the answers are found mainly in the Bible. Most people want to learn from the Bible rather than from our literature. Therefore, almost none of the cited scriptures are quoted. They are to be read from the Bible itself. This helps students realize that what they are learning comes from God.—Isa. 54:13.

5 The brochure does not explain all the scriptures. Why? It is designed to encourage the student to ask questions and to allow the instructor to use his teaching ability. Therefore, it is important to be well-prepared for each study period. A word of caution: Do not talk too much. We love to explain the Scriptures. But we often accomplish more by inviting the student to explain what he thinks the scripture means. By using questions tactfully, we can help him to reason out the meaning of each text. —Acts 17:2.

4. How does the brochure help us to teach directly from the Bible?

5. Why is it important for the conductor to be well-prepared for each study period?

6 Like other publications for conducting studies, this brochure can be offered at any time, regardless of what is being featured for the month. Many will enjoy using it with the direct approach to start doorstep studies. In addition, as mentioned at the district convention, using it when calling back on those who showed interest "can *really* make the return visit work exciting!" —See the boxes on pages 5-7.

7 **How to Conduct the Study:** We could begin the discussion by reading the numbered question in bold print. Next, read the paragraph and the scripture(s) in italics. Use tactful questions to help the householder understand what the scriptures mean. Then, before moving on to the next section,

6. How can we use the brochure (a) where people are skeptical about God and the Bible? (b) when going from house to house? (c) when using the direct approach to start Bible studies? (d) when making return visits?

7. How might you conduct a Bible study using the brochure?

Where People Are Skeptical About God and the Bible:

- In some areas, publishers find that the words "God" and "Bible" are conversation stoppers. In that case, on the initial visit, it may be best to discuss topics that are of local concern, such as the need for good government, where to get practical help for families, and what the future holds. Perhaps the *Good News* brochure can be introduced after we have had several conversations considering how we know that God exists and why the Bible is trustworthy.

ask the householder to answer the question in bold print, to make sure he understands. For the first few visits, it may be best to consider just one of the questions in bold print. In time, we may be able to lengthen the discussions to include an entire lesson.

[8] Scripture citations that are preceded by the word "read" are the ones that most directly answer the question in bold print. When introducing a scripture, avoid saying, "The apostle Paul wrote" or, "Notice what Jeremiah foretold." The householder might think that we are reading the words of mere humans. It would be better to say, "The Word of God says" or, "Notice what the Bible foretold."

[9] Should we read *all* the cited scriptures or *only* the "read" scriptures? Be guided by the circumstances. None of the cited texts are there simply to show where a thought is found in the Bible. Each one contains information that is

8. How should we introduce scriptures, and why?

9. Should all the cited scriptures be read during the study?

When Going From House to House:

● "I'm calling to show you how easy it can be to find out what God has in mind for mankind's future. Have you ever wondered whether God will relieve us of suffering? [Allow for response.] This brochure shows where in the Bible you can find the answer to that question. [Hand him a brochure, and read the first paragraph in lesson 1, as well as Jeremiah 29: 11.] From this, does it seem reasonable to you that God wants us to have a better future? [Allow for response.] If you like, you may keep this copy. Next time, we can consider the second paragraph to find the Bible's answer to this question, 'How will God relieve mankind of the causes of suffering?'" If the householder seems to have more time on the initial visit, you may be able to read and discuss the second paragraph and its three Bible texts. Arrange to return to discuss the second question in that lesson.

● "Many people like to pray, especially when they have problems. Do you pray sometimes? [Allow for response.] Do you think that God listens to *all* prayers, or could it be that some prayers do not please him? [Allow for response.] I have here a brochure that shows how to find the Bible's answer to those questions. [Hand him a copy, and consider together the first paragraph of lesson 12 and the "read" scriptures.] Isn't it marvelous that God is willing to listen to us? But to benefit fully from prayer, we need to know God well. [Turn to lesson 2 and point out the subheadings.] If you wish, I can leave this brochure with you, and at another time, we can read the Bible's answers to these fascinating questions."

● "I'm here because people are concerned about where this world is heading. Do you think conditions will ever improve? [Allow for response.] Many people are surprised to learn that the Bible contains good news that can give us hope. Here are some of the questions that the Bible answers." Hand him a brochure, and invite him to choose a question from the back cover that interests him the most. Then go to the lesson, and demonstrate the study. Make arrangements to return and to consider the next question in that lesson.

worth discussing. But in some cases, the student's lack of time, interest, or reading ability may suggest that we look up only the "read" scriptures.

10 **When to Switch to the *Bible Teach* Book:** After several discussions and once we have established a good routine, we can either switch to the *Bible Teach* book or continue in the *Good News* brochure until we have completed it. Publishers can use their judgment to decide when to switch. Once we switch to the *Bible Teach* book, must we start from the beginning? There are no rules on this. Each person is different. However, most students will benefit by going over the same subjects again in more detail in the *Bible Teach* book.

10. At what point can we switch the study to the *Bible Teach* book?

Try the Direct Approach:

● "I stopped by to tell you about a new Bible study course. This brochure has 15 lessons that show where in your Bible you can find answers to vital questions. [Show him the front and back covers.] Have you ever tried to understand the Bible? [Allow for response.] Let me show you how easy the lessons are. [Consider the first paragraph of question 3 in lesson 3, and read Revelation 21:4, 5. If appropriate, consider the next paragraph and the "read" scriptures.] If you wish, I can leave this brochure with you. We recommend that you try studying the Bible at least once. If you like it, you can continue. Next time, we can consider the first lesson. Notice that it is only one page long."

Introduce It on a Return Visit:

● When returning to visit someone who has shown interest, we might say: "It's nice to see you again. I brought you this brochure that gives the Bible's answer to many interesting questions. [Hand him a brochure, and invite him to look at the back cover.] Which of these topics interests you the most? [Allow for response. Then turn to the lesson he chose.] Let me show you how this brochure can be used to find the Bible's answer." Demonstrate the study by discussing a paragraph or two and the "read" scriptures. You have just started a Bible study! Leave the brochure with the householder, and make arrangements to return. When you complete the lesson, you can discuss another lesson chosen by the householder or start at the beginning of the brochure.

11 In a world where good news is scarce, we have the grand privilege of declaring the best news possible —that God's Kingdom rules and that it will soon usher in a new world where righteousness is to dwell! (Matt. 24:14; 2 Pet. 3:13) We are confident that many who hear this message will echo these inspired words: "How comely upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, the one publishing peace, the one bringing good news of something better, the one publishing salvation, the one saying to Zion: 'Your God has become king!'" (Isa. 52:7) May we use this new brochure to bring good news from God to thirsting ones in our territory!

11. Why should we make good use of this new brochure?

WEEK STARTING APRIL 1

Song 38 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 7 ¶7-13 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Luke 7-9 (10 min.)

No. 1: Luke 7:18-35 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What New Nation Was Born at Pentecost, and With What Purpose?—Gal. 6:16; 1 Pet. 2:9 (5 min.)

No. 3: Where Did Cain Find His Wife?—*w10* 9/1 p. 25 updates *rs* p. 301 ¶5–p. 302 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 113

10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in April. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to suggest an interest-arousing question to ask and then invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Make Good Use of the *2013 Yearbook*. Discussion. Review "A Letter From the Governing Body." Arrange in advance for some to relate an encouraging experience from the *Yearbook*. Invite audience to comment on outstanding aspects of the worldwide report. Conclude by encouraging all to complete their reading of the *Yearbook*.

Song 75 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **March and April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits, introduce the *Bible Teach* book or if more appropriate to the person's needs, one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever,* and try to start a Bible study. **May and June:** Feature one of the following tracts: *Enjoy Family Life, Who Really Rules the World?, Why You Can Trust the Bible,* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* If there is interest, demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book or one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

■ The Memorial will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. If your congregation normally has a meeting on Tuesday, it should be switched to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available. If the Service Meeting must be canceled, the coordinator of the body of elders may make adjustments to the schedule so that parts that are particularly applicable to your congregation are considered during the month. Congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer should reschedule the meetings normally held on Tuesday evening to another night during the visit.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in April

"We are encouraging our neighbors to read their Bible. But many people feel that the Bible is hard to understand. Have you found that to be true? [Allow for response.] Notice what this says." Show the back of the April 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM April 1

"Everyone we talk to has to deal with problems. This causes some people to wonder about the meaning of life. What would you say is one of the biggest obstacles to happiness today? [Allow for response.] The Bible promises that God will soon remove the problems we now face. [Read Revelation 21:4.] This magazine discusses what our future prospects are as well as how we can find meaning in life even now."

Awake!® April

"Domestic violence is a worldwide problem. Some say that contributing factors are a person's culture, his family background, and violent entertainment. What do you think is the main reason for violence in the home? [Allow for response.] The Bible shows the proper relationship that should exist between a husband and wife. [Read Ephesians 5:33.] This magazine discusses how some marriages have been saved by applying Bible principles."

Field Service Highlights

We rejoice to report three new peaks during the month of September 2012! There were peaks in regular pioneers of 74 in Bermuda, 53 in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and 152,134 in the United States. In addition, when compared with the same month of the previous year, the Bahamas experienced an increase of 9.1 percent in Bible studies. It is heartwarming to see so many exerting themselves fully to follow the Christ.—1 Thess. 4:1.

Our Kingdom Ministry

APRIL 2013

WEEK STARTING APRIL 8

Song 123 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 7 ¶14-20 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Luke 10-12 (10 min.)

No. 1: Luke 12:1-21 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Explains the Various Racial Characteristics?—*rs* p. 302 ¶2–p. 303 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Why We View Jehovah as Our Father —Matt. 6:9 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 60

10 min: You Can Be a Source of Encouragement. (Rom. 1:11, 12) Discussion by the service overseer. Mention the number of regular pioneers in the congregation. Outline some ways we can encourage them, such as by giving commendation, working with them in service, assisting with travel expenses, or sharing a meal. Invite pioneers to comment on how they have been encouraged by others. If the congregation has no regular pioneers, tailor the discussion to auxiliary pioneers.

10 min: Answering Questions About the Last Days. Discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, page 241, paragraph 5, to page 243, paragraph 1. Have one suggestion briefly demonstrated.

10 min: "Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Jonah." Questions and answers.

Song 13 and Prayer

Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Jonah

[1] What comes to mind when you think of the prophet Jonah? Some may view him as cowardly or hard-hearted. However, he clearly manifested humility, courage, and a spirit of self-sacrifice. How can we "take as a pattern" Jonah's admirable qualities?—Jas. 5:10.

1. What positive qualities did Jonah possess?

[2] **Humility:** Initially, Jonah fled in the opposite direction of his assigned territory. This is not surprising because the Assyrians were notoriously violent, and Nineveh came to be called "the city of bloodshed." (Nah. 3:1-3) Nonetheless, Jehovah disciplined Jonah, who showed humility by accepting the assignment when given a second chance. (Prov. 24:32; Jonah 3:1-3) Despite his initial reluctance, he did Jehovah's will. (Matt. 21:28-31) Are we similarly determined to preach the good news, even if we are disciplined or have a challenging territory assignment?

[3] **Courage and Self-Sacrifice:** When Jonah realized that his bad decision had jeopardized the lives of the mariners, he was willing to sacrifice his life. (Jonah 1:3, 4, 12) Later, when fulfilling his commission in Nineveh, he walked deep into the heart of the city, perhaps looking for a suitable location to proclaim the judgment of Jehovah. Those were the actions, not of a coward, but of a courageous prophet of God! (Jonah 3:3, 4) What about us today? God-given courage is needed to give a bold witness in the face of opposition. (Acts 4:29, 31) Self-sacrifice is required to invest time and resources in the ministry.—Acts 20:24.

[4] Each time you read an account about one of Jehovah's prophets, you will benefit if you visualize yourself in those circumstances. Ask yourself: 'How would I have responded? How can I imitate his good qualities in my life?' (Heb. 6:11, 12) Future articles in *Our Kingdom Ministry* will consider further valuable lessons that we can learn from other faithful prophets of Jehovah.

2. How can we imitate Jonah's humility?
3. What aspects of your ministry require courage and self-sacrifice?
4. Why should we take time to reflect on the fine pattern set by the prophets of Jehovah?

WEEK STARTING APRIL 15

Song 6 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

jr chap. 8 ¶1-7 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Luke 13-17 (10 min.)

No. 1: Luke 16:16-31 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Does Our Imperfect State Mean That We Are Worthless to God?—Ps. 103:8, 9, 14; Gal. 6:9 (5 min.)

No. 3: Are All Humans Children of God?—*rs* p. 303 ¶3–p. 304 ¶4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 95

10 min: Question Box. Discussion.

10 min: Ways to Expand Your Ministry —Part 2. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 112, paragraph 3, to page 114, paragraph 1. Interview one or two pioneers regarding how they were able to make adjustments in order to pioneer.

10 min: Do You Witness at Your Workplace? Discussion based on the following questions. (1) Why is it good for your workmates to know that you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses? (2) How can you let them know? (3) What situations at work provide opportunities to give a witness? (4) Why is it good to keep a Bible and some publications at your workplace if possible? (5) Why is it best to avoid prolonged witnessing during the time you should be working? (6) What good experiences have you had witnessing at work?

Song 45 and Prayer

QUESTION BOX

■ **What Bible principles apply to the use of cell phones while attending Christian meetings and sharing in the ministry?**

"For Everything There Is an Appointed Time." (Eccl. 3:1): Cell phones give people the ability to text or speak with one another at virtually any time. However, there are occasions when Christians do not want to be distracted by their phone. For instance, our meetings are a time to worship Jehovah, receive spiritual instruction, and enjoy an interchange of encouragement. (Deut. 31:12; Ps. 22:22; Rom. 1: 11, 12) Could we turn off our phone when we arrive and retrieve our messages after leaving the meeting? If the possibility of an emergency requires that we leave our phone on, we should put it on a setting that will not disturb others.

"Do All Things for the Sake of the Good News." (1 Cor. 9:23): At times, there are valid uses of a cell phone in the ministry. For example, a brother taking the lead might use it to check on those preaching in other parts of the territory. Publishers sometimes use their cell phone to call an interested person or Bible student before making a visit, especially if the person lives some distance away. If we have a phone with us, we should take precautions to prevent it from interrupting us while we are speaking with a householder. (2 Cor. 6:3) While waiting on other publishers, rather than phoning or texting a friend, would it not be better to keep our attention focused on the ministry and those with whom we are working?

Be Considerate of Others. (1 Cor. 10: 24; Phil. 2:4): Never would we want to be lax about being on time for the meetings for field service with the idea that we can always phone or text someone to find out where the group is witnessing. When we arrive late, the group must often be reorganized. Of course, circumstances beyond our control may occasionally cause us to be late. However, when we make it a habit to arrive on time, we show consideration for Jehovah's arrangement, the brother taking the lead, and our fellow publishers.

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WEEK STARTING APRIL 22

Song 85 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 8 ¶8-13 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Luke 18-21 (10 min.)
No. 1: Luke 18:18-34 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Will People of All Races Ever Truly Be United as Brothers and Sisters?—*rs* p. 304 ¶5–p. 305 ¶3 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Is Meekness, How Do We Seek It, and Why Is It Vital?—Zeph. 2:2, 3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 120
10 min: "Listen and Learn." Questions and answers.
10 min: "A Campaign That Gets Results." Discussion. Give all in attendance an invitation, if available, and discuss its contents. Inform the congregation when their campaign will begin, and outline local arrangements for covering the territory. Have a brief demonstration.
10 min: "Conduct That Glorifies God." Questions and answers. Also discuss applicable "2013 District Convention Reminders."
Song 121 and Prayer

Listen and Learn

[1] Soon the 2013 district conventions will begin. Much work has gone into preparing a program that addresses the current needs of the worldwide field. Have you made arrangements to be present all three days of the convention? Large conventions can have many distractions, so extra effort may be needed to pay careful attention to the program. Since the sessions last longer than congregation meetings, concentration must be maintained longer. In addition, travel and other factors may cause a measure of tiredness. What will help us to remain alert so that we can listen and learn?—Deut. 31:12.

[2] **Before the Convention Begins:** Our official Web site, www.jw.org, posts the convention program, which includes the titles of all the talks and one or two key scriptures for each one. If we have access to the Internet, previewing this information will help us

1. Why may extra effort be required to listen and learn at the district convention?
2. How may we prepare our heart for the convention program?

2013 District Convention Reminders

■ **Program Times:** The doors to the building will open at 8:00 a.m. The introductory music will begin at 9:20 a.m. all three days. At that time, all of us should go to our seats so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The closing song and prayer will be introduced at 4:50 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 3:35 p.m. on Sunday.

■ **Parking:** At all convention sites where we control the parking, the spaces will be available to attendees at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking is usually limited, so carpooling should be done to the extent possible. Only those with a license plate or placard for the disabled will be allowed to park in the area reserved for such ones.

■ **Seat Saving:** Seats may be saved only for those living in your home or traveling in your vehicle or for your current Bible students. Seating for the elderly and the infirm is limited, so it may not be possible for all of their family members to sit with them. Please leave these seats for the elderly and the infirm and those assisting them.—1 Cor. 13:5.

■ **Noon Meal:** Please bring a light lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. A small cooler that can be placed under a seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers and glass containers are not permitted in the convention facility.

■ **Donations:** We can show our appreciation for the convention arrangements by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at the convention. Any checks should be made payable to "Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations can also be made by means of a debit or credit card.

to prepare our heart for what will be presented. (Ezra 7:10) During your Family Worship evening, could you devote time to building anticipation for the upcoming program?

[3] **During the Program:** If possible, care for restroom needs before the start of the session. Turn off your cell phone so that you will not be distracted by calls or texts or be tempted to text others during the program. If you must have your phone on, put it on a setting that will not distract others in the event that someone calls. If you use an electronic tablet during the program, do so in a way that is not distracting to others. Avoid eating or drinking during the program. (Eccl. 3:1) Keep your eyes focused on the speaker. When a scripture is read, follow along in your Bible. Take brief notes.

[4] We also want our children to listen and learn. Proverbs 29:15 says: "A boy let on the loose will be causing his mother shame." Therefore, it is good for families to sit together so that parents can make sure that their children are paying attention to the program rather than talking, texting, or walking around. Even if they are too young to understand everything that is discussed, children can be trained to remain awake and sit quietly.

[5] **After the Program Concludes Each Day:** Do not stay out late. Go to bed early enough to get sufficient rest. Reviewing what you heard will help you to remember it longer. Therefore, it would be beneficial to take a few minutes to discuss the program as a family each evening. If you go to a restaurant with friends, why not take your notes along and share a point or two that you especially enjoyed? When you return home after the convention, you might spend some time during your Family Worship evening discussing how you can apply the information as a family. You could also set aside time each week to review a portion of any new releases.

[6] A banquet serves little purpose unless the food is eaten and digested. We can say the same regarding the spiritual banquet that will be served at the district convention. May we benefit fully by being in attendance for each session, by listening carefully, and by applying what we learn.

3. What will help us to listen carefully?
4. How can parents help their children to listen and learn?
5. Why is it beneficial to review the program, and how may we do this?
6. Is merely being present at the convention sufficient? Explain.

■ **Medication:** If you require prescription medication, please be sure to bring an adequate supply with you, since none will be available at the convention. Diabetic syringes and needles must be disposed of properly as hazardous waste and not in trash receptacles at the convention facility or hotel.

■ **Footwear:** Each year injuries occur that are related to footwear, especially high-heeled shoes. It is best to choose modest, well-fitting shoes that will allow you to walk safely on ramps, stairs, gratings, and so forth.

■ **Hearing Impaired:** The program will be broadcast in the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. To receive it, you will need to bring a small battery-operated FM receiver and earphones.

■ **Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs:** Baby strollers and lawn chairs should not be brought to the convention site. However, child-safety seats are acceptable if they can be secured in a seat next to the parents.

■ **Fragrances:** Most conventions take place in enclosed areas with mechanical ventilation. Therefore, it would be loving on our part to limit the use of strong fragrances, colognes, and perfumes that may cause reactions in people with respiratory or related problems. —1 Cor. 10:24.

■ ***Please Follow Up* (S-43) Forms:** A *Please Follow Up* form should be used to provide information regarding any interest found through informal witnessing during the convention. Completed forms may be submitted

A Campaign That Gets Results

Three weeks before the start of their convention, congregations will once again participate in a campaign to invite interested ones from the territory to attend. There is good reason for this annual campaign. Those who accept the invitation and come to the convention are often impressed by the Scriptural talks, the well-organized departments manned entirely by volunteers, and the good conduct and unity we display. (Ps. 110:3; 133:1; Isa. 65:13, 14) Even so, does our campaign get results, especially in areas where interested ones must travel some distance to attend the convention?

After the 2011 district convention, a branch office received a letter from a woman who had found an invitation in her door. She usually hid when Jehovah's Witnesses knocked. She wrote: "I had a beautiful home, a wonderful husband, and I thought I had everything that would make me happy. Sadly, I was still not happy, and my life truly had no purpose. So I decided to drive 200 miles to attend the Saturday program." She enjoyed the convention so much that she phoned her husband to tell him that she was going to stay overnight and attend on Sunday too. "I listened to all the talks, I met many Jehovah's Witnesses, and I decided that I never wanted this to end." After returning home, she began studying and after four months became an unbaptized publisher. "I am so glad that I found that invitation in my door because now my life truly has purpose!"

Some who receive an invitation *will* attend. Therefore, have a zealous share in this important campaign. Bring any leftover invitations with you to the convention city, and use them to witness informally.

How Will We Offer the Invitation?

In order to cover our territory, we should be brief. We might say something like this: "Hello. We are sharing in a global effort to distribute this invitation. Here is your copy. You will find more details on the invitation." Be enthusiastic. When sharing in the campaign on the weekends, we should also offer the magazines when appropriate.

to the Book Room or given to your congregation secretary on your return home.

■ **Restaurants:** Honor Jehovah's name by your fine conduct at restaurants. Dress in a way that befits a Christian minister. Leave a tip if this is customary.

■ **Hotels:**

(1) Please do not reserve more rooms than you will actually use, and do not have more people stay in your room than what is allowed.

(2) Do not cancel your reservation except for an emergency situation, and notify the hotel as soon as it occurs so that others needing accommodations can use the room. (Matt. 5:37) If you do have to cancel, be sure to get a cancellation number. If you cancel a room less than 48 hours ahead of time, your deposit will not be refunded.

(3) Please note that if you use a debit or credit card when registering at a hotel, it is standard practice for the hotel to place a "hold" on funds in your account to cover your total room cost, plus any possible damages or incidentals during your stay. You will not be able to use any of those funds until your account is settled within a few days after you depart.

(4) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it, and return it immediately so that others may use it.

(5) If it is the custom in your country, tip hotel workers when they carry your

Conduct That Glorifies God

[1] When attending district conventions, we are quite conspicuous. In many convention cities, local news outlets inform the community of our presence. The hotels and restaurants are often filled with delegates, and people living in the area notice the many visitors wearing convention badges. The following are some reminders that will help us to glorify God by our good conduct while in the convention city.—1 Pet. 2:12.

[2] **Modest Dress:** Our modest dress while attending the program often impresses onlookers. However, our style of dress at other times—when checking in at the hotel, when eating at area restaurants, when shopping, and so forth—may make a bigger impression on observers. Although we need not wear dress clothes on these other occasions, what we wear should be modest, dignified, and not overly casual. Observers should be able to see a difference between us and unbelievers. (Rom. 12:2) In addition, we should wear our convention badge, as this will advertise the convention, lead to witnessing opportunities, and enable other delegates to identify us.

1. Why are Jehovah's Witnesses conspicuous when attending district conventions?
2. How may we glorify God by our modest dress while in the convention city?

[3] **Patience and Courtesy:** At a time when many in the world are self-centered and unthankful, how refreshing our patience and courteousness will be to onlookers, such as hotel and restaurant personnel! (2 Tim. 3: 1-5) When saving seats or when getting in line to obtain convention releases, we should seek, not our own advantage, but that of the other person. (1 Cor. 10:23, 24) After attending his first convention, one interested man said, "I don't remember any of the talks that were given that day, but the conduct of the Witnesses made a lasting impression on me."

[4] **Willing Volunteers:** The volunteer spirit is a mark of true Christians. (Ps. 110:3) Could you volunteer to assist at the convention? At one convention site, some 600 brothers and sisters volunteered to clean before the convention. The staff remarked: "This is the most amazing thing we have ever seen! It's hard to imagine that all of these people are volunteers." We eagerly look forward to the 2013 district conventions and the opportunity we will have not just to listen and learn from God but also to glorify him.

3. How may we display patience and courtesy?
4. Why should we consider volunteering at the convention if our circumstances allow?

luggage and leave a tip for the housekeeper each day.

(6) Cook only in rooms where cooking is permitted.

(7) Do not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, or ice provisions that are made available for guests to consume while they are at the hotel.

(8) At all times, display the fruitage of the spirit when dealing with the hotel staff. They are caring for a large number of guests and appreciate our kindness, patience, and reasonableness.

(9) Parents should supervise their children at all times around the hotel, including the elevators, swimming pool, lobby area, exercise room, and so forth.

(10) The room rate shown on the *Recommended Lodging List* is the full price per day, excluding tax. If you are overcharged, refuse these charges and inform the Rooming Department at the convention as soon as possible.

(11) If a problem arises with your hotel room, inform the Rooming Department while at the convention so that they can assist you.

■ **Volunteer Service:** Any who wish to volunteer should report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent, guardian, or other adult approved by a parent or guardian.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 29

Song 50 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 8 ¶14-20 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Luke 22-24 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 56
10 min: Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday. Using the sample presentation on page 8, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in May. Encourage all to have a share. Discuss "Do You Regularly Check the Information Board?"
10 min: The Message We Must Proclaim —"This Good News of the Kingdom." Enthusiastic talk based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 279-281.
10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Matthew 16:21-23 and Luke 9:22-26 read. Consider how these accounts can help us in our ministry.
Song 117 and Prayer

Do You Regularly Check the Information Board?

Elders, ministerial servants, and others who have congregation responsibilities regularly look at the information board to see when they have an assignment. However, all in the congregation will find important information there. Do you know when it is your turn to clean the Kingdom Hall? Has the circuit overseer or branch office sent important correspondence to the congregation? Do you know the title of the public talk this week so that you can invite your Bible student? Have adjustments been made to the meeting schedule or in your field service group? Much of this information is no longer announced during the meetings, and it may not be possible for the elders to convey it to every publisher individually. Thus, we should check the information board regularly. If we keep ourselves informed, then all things can take place "decently and by arrangement."—1 Cor. 14:40.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 29, 2013. The date when each point is scheduled for discussion is included so that research can be done when preparing for the school each week.

1. What serious reminder did Jesus give about marriage, as recorded at Mark 10: 6-9? [Mar. 4, *w08* 2/15 p. 30 par. 8]
2. What does it mean to serve Jehovah whole-souled? (Mark 12:30) [Mar. 4, *w97* 10/15 p. 13 par. 4]
3. What are the "pangs of distress" referred to at Mark 13:8? [Mar. 11, *w08* 3/15 p. 12 par. 2]
4. What sources did Luke consult when compiling his Gospel account? (Luke 1:3) [Mar. 18, *w09* 3/15 p. 32 par. 4]
5. The fact that Satan looks for a "convenient time" to test our integrity should move us to do what? (Luke 4:13) [Mar. 25, *w11* 1/15 p. 23 par. 10]
6. How are we to apply the words recorded at Luke 6:27, 28? [Mar. 25, *w08* 5/15 p. 8 par. 4]
7. Why could Jesus forgive a woman for her sins before he died as the ransom sacrifice? (Luke 7:37, 48) [Apr. 1, *w10* 8/15 pp. 6-7]
8. In what sense are Christ's followers to "hate" their relatives? (Luke 14:26) [Apr. 15, *w08* 3/15 p. 32 par. 1; *w92* 7/15 p. 9 pars. 3-5]
9. What effect will the "signs in sun and moon and stars" have on humans? (Luke 21:25) [Apr. 22, *w97* 4/1 p. 15 pars. 8-9]
10. How can we imitate Jesus' way of praying when we face trials that are particularly severe? (Luke 22:44) [Apr. 29, *w07* 8/1 p. 6 par. 2]

WEEK STARTING MAY 6

Song 26 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 9 ¶1-7 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: John 1-4 (10 min.)

No. 1: John 3:22-36 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Does "Walking by Spirit" Really Mean?—Gal. 5:16 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Was the Death of Jesus Christ Different From That of Others Who Have Become Martyrs?—*rs* p. 306 ¶1-4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 57

10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in May. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask and then invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Unless Jehovah Himself Builds the House, It Is to No Avail That Its Builders Have Worked Hard on It. (Ps. 127:1) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 149, paragraph 1, to page 151, paragraph 1. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 47 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits, introduce the *Bible Teach* book or if more appropriate to the person's needs, one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever,* and try to start a Bible study. **May and June:** Feature one of the following tracts: *Enjoy Family Life, Who Really Rules the World?, Why You Can Trust the Bible,* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* If there is interest, demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book or one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **July:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

■ The meeting schedule for the week preceding your district convention may be adjusted in order to review counsel and reminders that were considered during the week of April 22. A month or two following your convention, a local needs part may be used to review convention points that the publishers have found to be helpful in the ministry.

■ Whenever personal travel plans include attending a district convention in another land, you will find helpful information on the www.jw.org Web site by selecting "Conventions" in the "About Us" section.

■ Since June has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in May

"One thing we have in common is that we all make mistakes. Have you ever wondered if God can forgive even really terrible actions?" [Allow for response.] Show the article on page 15 of the May 1 *Watchtower,* and consider the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM May 1

"We would like to get your opinion on what this says. [Read 1 John 4:8.] Many agree with these words, but others think that God must be cruel for causing, or at least allowing, natural disasters. What's your opinion? [Allow for response.] This magazine outlines logical reasons why we should not misjudge God as being cruel."

Awake!® May

"We are visiting our neighbors to talk about a distressing problem—crime. Some think that the key to controlling crime is to add more police. What's your opinion? [Allow for response.] Did you know that the Bible promises an end to crime? [Read Psalm 37:10, 11.] This magazine discusses this assurance and gives some practical steps that we can take to protect ourselves from crime."

Field Service Highlights

During the month of October, the United States branch territory reported three new peaks in regular pioneers: 75 in Bermuda, 54 in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and 153,039 in the United States. Additionally, the Bahamas reported an increase of 10.7 percent in regular pioneers over the same month the previous year. Truly, Jehovah's name is being praised throughout the earth.—Ps. 98:4.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MAY 2013

WEEK STARTING MAY 13

Song 4 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 9 ¶8-13 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: John 5-7 (10 min.)

No. 1: John 6:22-40 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Why Was It Necessary for the Ransom to Be Provided in the Manner That It Was?—*rs* p. 306 ¶6–p. 307 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Can We Apply the Principle Behind What Is Written in Numbers 15:37-40? (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 126

10 min: The Literature Offer for May and June. Talk. Briefly relate why the tracts being offered will have appeal in your territory. Have one or two demonstrations showing how the tracts may be offered in the house-to-house ministry.

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Matthew 5:11, 12 and Matthew 11:16-19 read. Consider how these accounts can help us in our ministry.

10 min: "What Motivates Us to Preach?" Questions and answers.

Song 91 and Prayer

What Motivates Us to Preach?

[1] Preaching the good news of God's Kingdom is the most meaningful work that we can do today. Indeed, with this one activity, we demonstrate obedience to the two greatest commandments, namely, to love Jehovah and to love our neighbor. (Mark 12:29-31) Love is a powerful motivating force that can stir us to be zealous ministers.—1 John 5:3.

1. What is the relationship between love and our ministry?

[2] **Love for Jehovah:** Love for our dearest Friend, Jehovah, moves us to speak up in his behalf. For some 6,000 years, he has been slandered by Satan. (2 Cor. 4: 3, 4) Therefore, people believe that God torments sinners in a burning hell, that he is a mysterious Trinity, and that he is disinterested in humans. Many have even come to the conclusion that he does not exist. How we long for people to know the truth about our heavenly Father! Our diligent efforts to be God's witnesses bring him great pleasure and frustrate Satan. —Prov. 27:11; Heb. 13:15, 16.

[3] **Love for Neighbor:** Each time we give a witness to someone, we demonstrate love for him. People desperately need to hear the good news during these critical times. Many are like the Ninevites in Jonah's day who did "not at all know the difference between their right hand and their left." (Jonah 4:11) Our ministry teaches people how to live happy, successful lives. (Isa. 48:17-19) It gives them hope. (Rom. 15:4) If they listen and act on what they learn, they "will be saved." —Rom. 10:13, 14.

[4] Good children do not demonstrate love for their parents only on scheduled occasions. They strive to be loving all the time. Similarly, strong love for God and for neighbor will motivate us to be alert for opportunities to witness all the time, not just during scheduled witnessing periods. We will preach without letup. (Acts 5:42) Such love will never be forgotten by Jehovah.—Heb. 6:10.

2. How does our preaching demonstrate love for Jehovah?
3. In what way does our ministry show love for neighbor?
4. What will never be forgotten by Jehovah?

WEEK STARTING MAY 20

Song 70 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 9 ¶14-19 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: John 8-11 (10 min.)

No. 1: John 8:12-30 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Steps Can We Take to Protect Ourselves From False Teachers?—Rom. 16:17; 2 John 9-11 (5 min.)

No. 3: Why Did God Not Simply Decree That All Who Would Obey Could Live Forever?—*rs* p. 307 ¶3–p. 308 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 96

10 min: Ways to Expand Your Ministry —Part 3. Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 116, paragraph 1, to page 117, paragraph 1. Briefly interview a publisher who assists the Regional Building Committee.

10 min: Jehovah Helps Us Fulfill Our Assignments. (Ex. 4:10-12; Phil. 4:13) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 101, paragraph 3; and page 111, paragraph 3, to page 112, paragraph 2. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: "Who Would Be Interested in This?" Questions and answers. Invite audience to name some of the businesses and local government agencies in the congregation's territory that may be interested in a particular subject discussed in our magazines.

Song 92 and Prayer

Who Would Be Interested in This?

1 *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* are prepared with the worldwide field in mind. Therefore, the articles deal with a wide variety of topics. As we read each article in our personal copy, we should consider whom in particular it may interest, and then make it a point to offer it to that person.

1. When we read our copy of *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* what should we consider, and why?

2 Does the current *Watchtower* discuss a Bible topic that you and a workmate previously talked about? Is there an article on family life that would be of help to a relative? Do you have an acquaintance who is planning a trip to a land that has been featured in *Awake!?* Would one of the magazines appeal to certain businesses or local government agencies in your territory? For example, a magazine that highlights challenges facing the elderly may be of particular interest at nursing homes. Law enforcement agencies may be interested in a magazine on the subject of crime.

3 **Results:** After receiving the October 2011 *Awake!* on "How to Raise Responsible Children," a couple in South Africa phoned 25 schools in their congregation's territory. Twenty-two accepted copies and distributed them to their students. Another couple in that country had the same idea and placed copies at schools in their territory. Teachers at one of the schools decided to use the magazine in their weekly orientation and reading program. The couple shared their experience with a circuit overseer. He then encouraged congregations in his circuit to approach schools in their territories. The branch office received so many requests for additional magazines that this issue had to be reprinted!

4 Our magazines discuss the real meaning behind current events and direct attention to the Bible and God's Kingdom. They are the only magazines on earth that are "publishing salvation." (Isa. 52:7) Therefore, we want to give them wide distribution. A good way to do that is by asking yourself, 'Who would be interested in this?'

2. What topics covered in our magazines may be of particular interest to others?
3. Relate an experience that illustrates the value of offering specific issues of the magazines to those who we feel may be interested in their contents.
4. Why do we want to give the magazines wide distribution?

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WEEK STARTING MAY 27

Song 6 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 10 ¶1-7 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: John 12-16 (10 min.)
No. 1: John 12:20-36 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: To Whom First Was the Merit of Jesus' Sacrifice Applied, and With What Objective?—*rs* p. 308 ¶2-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why Is It Appropriate That Jehovah Is Called "the God Who Gives Peace"? —Rom. 15:33 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 98
***5 min:* Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday.** Talk. Demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in June, using the back cover of *The Watchtower.* Encourage all to have a share.
***15 min:* Watering the Seeds That We Plant. (1 Cor. 3:6-9)** Discussion based on the following questions: (1) What do you enjoy about the return visit work? (2) What do some find challenging about making return visits? (3) How can these challenges be overcome? (4) How can we obtain assistance if return visits are difficult for us? (5) What system do you have for keeping track of someone who showed interest and for noting the subject you discussed, the literature you left, and other details? (6) How do you prepare for your return visits? (7) Why is it good to schedule time each week for making return visits?
***10 min:* "Use Videos in Your Teaching."** Discussion. Invite audience to relate how they benefited from viewing our videos before they became Witnesses.
Song 101 and Prayer

Use Videos in Your Teaching

When Jehovah conveyed important information to Abraham and Jeremiah, he did so not only by telling them but also by showing them. (Gen. 15:5; Jer. 18:1-6) We can help our students to grasp and appreciate Bible truths by making good use of visual aids, such as our videos. The following are ideas as to when some of the videos could be shown. Keep in mind that these are just suggestions, since every student is different.

Bible Teach book

☐ **Chapter 1:** After paragraph 17, view *The Wonders of Creation Reveal God's Glory*

☐ **Chapter 2:** At the end, view *The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book*

☐ **Chapter 9:** After paragraph 14, view *Jehovah's Witnesses—Organized to Share the Good News*

☐ **Chapter 14:** At the end, view *The Bible —Its Power in Your Life*

☐ **Chapter 15:** After paragraph 10, view *Our Whole Association of Brothers*

"God's Love" book

☐ **Chapter 3:** After paragraph 15, view *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?*

☐ **Chapter 4:** At the end, view *Respect Jehovah's Authority*

☐ **Chapter 7:** After paragraph 12, view *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge*

☐ **Chapter 9:** After paragraph 6, view *Warning Examples for Our Day*

☐ **Chapter 17:** At the end, view *'Walk by Faith, Not by Sight'*

Are there other videos that one of your students would benefit from seeing? For example, individuals who are dealing with opposition might be encouraged by viewing *Faithful Under Trials—Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union* or *Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault.* Youths may benefit from *Pursue Goals That Honor God* and *Young People Ask—What Will I Do With My Life?* Make notations in your copy of the *Bible Teach* and *"God's Love"* books to remind you when you might view a video with your student or lend it to him to watch. As new videos are released, think about how you could use them to touch the heart of your Bible students.—Luke 24:32.

WEEK STARTING JUNE 3

Song 68 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 10 ¶8-13 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: John 17-21 (10 min.)
No. 1: John 21:15-25 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Should We Not "Follow After the Crowd"?—Ex. 23:2; Prov. 1:10 (5 min.)
No. 3: Who Besides Anointed Christians Are Experiencing Benefits From Jesus' Sacrifice?—*rs* p. 309 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 16
10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in June. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask and then invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
10 min: Why We Report Our Field Service. Talk by the secretary based on the *Organized* book, page 88, paragraph 1, to page 90, paragraph 1.
10 min: Local needs.
Song 107 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **May and June:** Feature one of the following tracts: *Enjoy Family Life, Who Really Rules the World?, Why You Can Trust the Bible,* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* If there is interest, demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book or one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **July and August:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men under the age of 26 who are (1) citizens and have reached 18 years of age or (2) noncitizens who move to the United States must register within 30 days. From the time a man registers until he turns 26, he must notify Selective Service within ten days of any change of address. Elders should remind those to whom this applies or will soon apply of their duty to register.—Rom. 13:1.

■ Since June has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in June

"Almost everyone we talk to wants to see peace in the world. Yet, we still have wars. In your opinion, why is world peace so elusive?" Allow for response. Then show the back of the June 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

Note: This presentation should be demonstrated during the meeting for field service on June 1.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 1

"We are making very brief visits in the community to talk about a common problem. Most people have experienced prejudice at one time or another. Do you think that there is any place in the world where prejudice does not exist? [Allow for response.] Notice how God views all people. [Read Acts 10:34.] This magazine discusses how God will end prejudice once and for all."

Awake!® June

"We would like to get your opinion on something. It's natural to want a better life. Do you think we can achieve that by buying more material possessions? [Allow for response.] Notice this profound statement of Jesus. [Read Luke 12:15.] This magazine presents a balanced view of material possessions and offers helpful suggestions on how to keep our spending under control."

Field Service Highlights

We are pleased to report four all-time peaks for the month of November 2012: 196 regular pioneers in the Bahamas, 78 in Bermuda, and 154,613 in the United States, along with a new peak of 404 Bible studies in Bermuda. Also, when compared with November 2011, the Turks and Caicos Islands had a 20.5 percent increase in regular pioneers. These fine increases give evidence that Jehovah's people are not holding back in sharing the good news with others.—Prov. 3:27.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JUNE 2013

WEEK STARTING JUNE 10

Song 114 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 10 ¶14-19 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Acts 1-4 (10 min.)

No. 1: Acts 1:15–2:4 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Future Blessings Will Be Enjoyed as a Result of the Ransom?—*rs* p. 310 ¶1-4 (5 min.)

No. 3: Why Can the Thinking of Many People Be Likened to Poisonous Air?—Eph. 2:1, 2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 85

10 min: The Importance of Good Visual Contact. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 124, paragraph 1, to page 125, paragraph 4. Have a brief demonstration showing a publisher who has poor eye contact while giving a witness. Then repeat the demonstration, this time with the publisher maintaining good eye contact.

10 min: What Did We Accomplish? Discussion by the secretary. Outline what was accomplished during the Memorial season, and commend the congregation for its activity. Invite audience to relate positive experiences enjoyed while distributing Memorial invitations or while serving as auxiliary pioneers.

10 min: "Are You Willing to Adapt?" Questions and answers.

Song 74 and Prayer

Are You Willing to Adapt?

[1] At 1 Corinthians 7:31, the Bible compares the world to a stage with ever-changing scenes and actors. Changes in the world require that we make adjustments from time to time in our preaching methods, our schedule, and our approach. Are you willing to adapt?

1. Changes in the world require that we make what adjustments?

[2] **Your Preaching Methods:** The Christian congregation has always been adaptable. When Jesus initially sent out his disciples, he told them not to procure a food pouch or money for their purses. (Matt. 10:9, 10) However, he later revised those instructions in anticipation of future hostility toward his disciples and the expansion of the preaching work into other territories. (Luke 22:36) Over the past century, Jehovah's organization has used different preaching methods—testimony cards, radio broadcasts, and sound cars, for example—according to what was needed at the time. Today, since people in many areas are seldom at home, increased emphasis has been placed on supplementing our house-to-house ministry with public and informal witnessing. We have also been encouraged to go from house to house during the early evening if people are at work during the day. As Jehovah's celestial chariot adjusts its course, are you keeping pace with it?—Ezek. 1: 20, 21.

[3] **Your Presentation:** What are the people in your area presently concerned about? The economy? Family? War? It is beneficial to be aware of the current problems and circumstances common in our territory so that we can prepare an appropriate presentation. (1 Cor. 9:20-23) When householders express themselves, rather than giving a token response and continuing with our prepared presentation, how much better it is to adapt and address their concerns.

[4] Very soon this world's final "scene" will conclude, and the great tribulation will begin. "The time left is reduced." (1 Cor. 7:29) How important it is, then, to adapt and to do so without delay, so that we can accomplish the most in the limited time left!

2. Why must we be adaptable in order to keep pace with the organization?
3. How does being adaptable help us to be more effective in our territory?
4. Why should we be quick to adapt?

WEEK STARTING JUNE 17

Song 48 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 10 ¶20-27 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Acts 5-7 (10 min.)
No. 1: Acts 5:17-32 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: What Must a Person Do to Be Known by Jehovah?—2 Tim. 2:19 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Is Required of Us in Order to Benefit From Jesus' Sacrifice?—*rs* p. 310 ¶5–p. 311 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 61
10 min: How to Demonstrate Respect in the Ministry. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 190, paragraph 1, to page 192, paragraph 1. Have a brief realistic demonstration of a publisher showing a lack of respect for the householder. Then repeat the demonstration, this time with the publisher showing proper respect.
10 min: Help Your Student to Become a Publisher. Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 78, paragraph 3, to the last bulleted point on page 80.
10 min: "Increased Opportunities to Laud Jehovah." Questions and answers. Briefly interview one or two publishers who auxiliary pioneered during the visit of the circuit overseer.
Song 9 and Prayer

Increased Opportunities to Laud Jehovah

1 This past March, a new arrangement went into effect, giving publishers the opportunity to auxiliary pioneer with a 30-hour requirement each March and April and during the month of the circuit overseer's regular visit. If the visit of the circuit overseer spans two months, publishers who apply for the 30-hour requirement may choose one month or the other to auxiliary pioneer. All auxiliary pioneers may attend the *entire* meeting that he has with the regular and special pioneers. This means that if the 50-hour requirement is out of reach for us, we can still "laud Jehovah very much" as auxiliary pioneers up to four times a year with the 30-hour requirement!—Ps. 109:30; 119:171.

2 **During the Circuit Overseer's Visit:** Now many more will be able to auxiliary pioneer during the visit of the circuit overseer and enjoy the interchange of encouragement that comes from working with him in the ministry. (Rom. 1:11, 12) Many auxiliary pioneers will likely arrange to take a day off during the week in order to work with the circuit overseer. Those who work secularly during weekdays can ask him if he will work with them on Saturday or Sunday. In addition, how encouraging it will be for the auxiliary pioneers to attend the pioneer meeting along with the regular and special pioneers!

3 **During March *and* April:** Those who took advantage of the former arrangement to auxiliary pioneer with the 30-hour requirement one month during the Memorial season can now double their "sacrifice of praise"! (Heb. 13:15) Both March and April are excellent months to expand our ministry as auxiliary pioneers. Each year during those months, we participate in an enjoyable campaign to invite others to attend the Memorial. In addition, because many expand their ministry during the Memorial season, we can work with a variety of publishers. After the Memorial, we follow up on the interest shown by those who attended and build enthusiasm for the special public talk. Will your heart motivate you to take advantage of these additional opportunities to auxiliary pioneer?—Luke 6:45.

1. What new arrangement will help us to "laud Jehovah very much"?
2. What will those who auxiliary pioneer during the visit of the circuit overseer enjoy?
3. Why is the Memorial season an excellent time to auxiliary pioneer?

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WEEK STARTING JUNE 24

Song 123 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 11 ¶1-8 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Acts 8-10 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 93

10 min: "Feature One Topic, but Leave Both Magazines." Talk. Following the talk, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in July, using the sample presentation on page 4.

10 min: Our Work Is Not in Vain. (Heb. 6:10) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* pages 113-115. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

10 min: The Literature Offer for July and August. Discussion. Briefly consider features of the brochures that will be offered. Demonstrate how two of them may be presented. One presentation should be of the *Good News* brochure, using the sample on page 4 or one of the sample presentations in the March 2013 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

Song 129 and Prayer

Feature One Topic, but Leave Both Magazines

Each set of our magazines contains a variety of interesting topics. Rather than trying to feature several subjects at each door, it is generally better to discuss only one. If we are observant and familiar with the contents of the magazines, we can choose something from either *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* that will interest the householder. For example, if we see children's toys in or around the home, we may choose to highlight an article on family life. If a man comes to the door, we might decide to feature a subject that many men are interested in, such as good government. Although we may discuss only one topic, we should usually leave both magazines with the householder if he shows interest.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning June 24, 2013. The date when each point is scheduled for discussion is included so that research can be done when preparing for the school each week.

1. What did Jesus mean by his statement recorded at John 3:14, 15: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of man must be lifted up"? [May 6, *it*-1 p. 505]
2. When do Christ's followers receive life in themselves, or enter into the fullness of life? (John 6:53) [May 13, *w03* 9/15 p. 31 par. 3]
3. Illustrate how Jesus revealed his Father to imperfect humans. (John 8:28) [May 20, *w11* 4/1 p. 7 par. 3]
4. What do we learn from Jesus' 'giving way to tears' upon the death of his friend Lazarus? (John 11:35) [May 20, *w08* 5/1 p. 24 pars. 3-5]
5. What powerful lesson did Jesus teach by washing the feet of his disciples? (John 13:4, 5) [May 27, *w99* 3/1 p. 31 par. 1]
6. How can God's spirit serve as a sure guide for us? (John 14:26) [May 27, *w11* 12/15 pp. 14-15 par. 9]
7. At John 21:15, to what does "these" refer, and what lesson can we learn? [June 3, *w08* 4/15 p. 32 par. 11]
8. According to Acts 2:44-47 and Acts 4:34, 35, what spirit do Christians do well to imitate? [June 10, *w08* 5/15 p. 30 par. 5]
9. Was Stephen praying to Jesus in the account found at Acts 7:59? [June 17, *w08* 5/15 p. 31 par. 2]
10. How can we imitate the good example of Barnabas, and what benefits will we enjoy from doing so? (Acts 9:26, 27) [June 24, *bt* p. 65 par. 19]

WEEK STARTING JULY 1

Song 69 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 11 ¶9-14 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Acts 11-14 (10 min.)

No. 1: Acts 11:1-18 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: What Effect Should the Ransom Have on How We Use Our Lives?—*rs* p. 311 ¶4-6 (5 min.)

No. 3: Who Really Are Your Friends?—Ps. 119: 63 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 70

10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in July. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then using the cover subject of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask and then invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Luke 12:16-31 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.

Song 35 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **June:** Feature one of the following tracts: *Enjoy Family Life, Who Really Rules the World?, Why You Can Trust the Bible,* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* If there is interest, demonstrate a Bible study using the *Bible Teach* book or one of the brochures *Listen to God* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **July and August:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **September:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

■ As of April 1, 2013, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, and the United States Virgin Islands came under the oversight of the United States branch.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in July

"Almost everyone in our community would like to live a long, happy life. So we would like to get your opinion on this question: Do you think that science and medicine will enable us to live forever one day? [Allow for response.] Notice what it says here." Show the back of the July 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

Note: This presentation should be demonstrated during the meeting for field service on July 6.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 1

"Many whom we talk to have their own religion. But others say that they have lost trust in religion altogether. How do you feel about religion? [Allow for response.] Jesus provided a standard to help us when examining a religion. [Read Luke 6:44a.] This magazine discusses some of the bad fruit that religion has produced. It also answers the question, Is *any* religion deserving of trust?"

Awake!® July

"We are visiting our neighbors to talk about a distressing problem—injustice. Some people fight injustice by protesting. Do you think that people who protest succeed in bringing about changes? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says will bring real change to the earth. [Read Matthew 6:9, 10.] This magazine answers the question, Is protest the answer?"

Good News From God!

"We're visiting the families on your street to share an encouraging thought from the Bible. Many that we've talked to wonder why a loving God would allow so much suffering in the world. Do you think that suffering was part of God's original purpose for the earth?" Allow for response. Then turn to Lesson 5, and read and discuss the first two paragraphs and the scriptures in italics. Offer the brochure, and make arrangements to return to consider the next question in bold print.

Field Service Highlights

We are happy to report two new all-time peaks in regular pioneers during the month of December 2012: 154,706 in the United States and 79 in Bermuda. Also, when comparing December with the same month of the previous year, the number of Bible studies being conducted increased by 5.9 percent in the Bahamas and by 15.6 percent in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Clearly, Jehovah's servants are making a "sacrifice of praise" to him.—Heb. 13:15.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY
JULY 2013

WEEK STARTING JULY 8

Song 43 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 11 ¶15-21 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Acts 15-17 (10 min.)
No. 1: Acts 16:16-34 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Can a Christian Be Happy When Persecuted?—Matt. 5:11, 12 (5 min.)
No. 3: When the Apostle Paul Said That Christians Would Be "Caught Up" to Be With the Lord, What Subject Was Being Discussed? —*rs* p. 312 ¶1-2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 75
10 min: Methods of Preaching the Good News—Directing Interested Ones to Jehovah's Organization. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 99, paragraph 2, to page 100, paragraph 1. Invite audience to comment on how they have used the *Jehovah's Will* brochure to direct their students to the organization.
10 min: Test Jehovah Out, and Receive a Blessing Until There Is No More Want (Mal. 3:10) Interview two or three regular pioneers. What do they enjoy most about pioneering? How has pioneering helped them spiritually? Invite them to relate any outstanding experiences they have enjoyed. Conclude by inviting publishers to consider joining the regular pioneer ranks in September.
10 min: "Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Joel." Questions and answers.
Song 54 and Prayer

Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Joel

1 Who was the prophet Joel? He reveals only that he was "the son of Pethuel." (Joel 1:1) This humble prophet emphasized Jehovah's message, not his own role as the messenger. Likewise, in our ministry, rather than seeking personal praise or recognition, we direct attention to Jehovah and the Bible. (1 Cor. 9:16; 2 Cor. 3:5) In addition, we find strength in the message we declare. What aspects of Joel's prophecy can infuse us with zeal and hope today?

2 **"The Day of Jehovah Is Near." (Joel 1: 15):** Although these words were written millenniums ago, we are living in the time of their final fulfillment. Deteriorating world conditions and the indifference and ridicule that we encounter in our territory are positive proofs that the last days of this wicked system of things have arrived. (2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Pet. 3: 3, 4) When we contemplate the nearness of the end, we have every reason to give the ministry priority in our lives.—2 Pet. 3:11, 12.

3 **"Jehovah Will Be a Refuge for His People." (Joel 3:16):** The rocking described in this verse could apply only to Jehovah's execution of judgment during the great tribulation. We take comfort in knowing that Jehovah will deliver his faithful servants during that time. (Rev. 7:9, 14) As we engage in the preaching work and experience how Jehovah sustains and strengthens us, we build faith and endurance that will help us during the coming great tribulation.

4 Although Joel's message has been described by some as one of gloom, it offers God's people the glorious hope of deliverance. (Joel 2:32) Let us, then, face the future with confidence and zealously proclaim the good news of God's Kingdom as we heed the words of Joel 2:23: "Be joyful and rejoice in Jehovah your God."

1. How can we imitate Joel's humility as we preach?

2. What should the nearness of Jehovah's day motivate us to do?

3. Why is the ministry especially important as we approach the great tribulation?

4. Why can we be joyful and face the future with confidence?

WEEK STARTING JULY 15

Song 48 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 12 ¶1-7 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Acts 18-21 (10 min.)

No. 1: Acts 20:17-38 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Will Christ Appear Visibly on a Cloud and Then Take Away Faithful Christians Into the Heavens While the World Looks On?—*rs* p. 313 ¶1-3 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Can We Show That We Are Minding the Spirit?—Rom. 8:6 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 92

10 min: Reach Your Student's Heart. (Luke 24:32) Discussion based on these questions: (1) When conducting a Bible study, why is it important to emphasize (a) Jehovah's love and wisdom? (b) the value of applying Bible principles? (c) the need always to seek Jehovah's direction before making a decision? (2) How would asking your student the following questions help you discern if you are reaching his heart? (a) Does this sound reasonable to you? (b) Do you feel that this is consistent with God's love? (c) What benefit do you see in applying such counsel?

20 min: "Young Brothers, Are You Reaching Out?" Questions and answers. Briefly interview an elder or a ministerial servant who reached out as a young person. What assignments and training did he receive before he was appointed as a ministerial servant? How did others in the congregation help him make spiritual progress? What blessings has he enjoyed as a result of reaching out?

Song 85 and Prayer

Young Brothers, Are You Reaching Out?

1 "If any man is reaching out . . . , he is desirous of a fine work." (1 Tim. 3:1) Those inspired words encourage brothers to reach out to qualify for service privileges in the congregation. Must you be an adult to do so? Actually, it is best to begin reaching out when you are still a youth. In this way you can receive training and demonstrate your fitness to be appointed as a ministerial servant when you are older. (1 Tim. 3:10) If you are a young baptized brother, how can you reach out?

2 **Self-Sacrifice:** Remember that you are reaching out for a fine *work,* not a title. Therefore, cultivate a desire to help your brothers and sisters. One way to do this is by meditating on Jesus' fine example. (Matt. 20:28; John 4:6, 7; 13:4, 5) Ask Jehovah to help you to be interested in others. (1 Cor. 10:24) Could you give practical assistance to those in the congregation who are elderly or infirm? Do you make yourself available to cut the grass, shovel the snow, or care for other aspects of maintaining the Kingdom Hall? Could you volunteer to give a substitute talk on the Theocratic Ministry

1. When should a young brother begin to apply the direction found at 1 Timothy 3:1?
2. How can the spirit of self-sacrifice be cultivated and demonstrated?

With so many new ones coming into the truth, qualified spiritual men are needed to care for congregation responsibilities

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School? You will find that giving of yourself in behalf of others will bring you joy. —Acts 20:35.

[3] **Spirituality:** It is far more important for a servant in the congregation to have spirituality than to have special talents or natural abilities. A spiritual man tries to view things as Jehovah and Jesus do. (1 Cor. 2:15, 16) He displays "the fruitage of the spirit." (Gal. 5:22, 23) He is a zealous evangelizer who puts Kingdom interests first. (Matt. 6:33) You can develop spiritual qualities by having a good routine of personal study. This would include reading the Bible every day, reading each issue of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, and preparing for and attending congregation meetings. (Ps. 1:1, 2; Heb. 10:24, 25) When encouraging young Timothy to make spiritual advancement, Paul wrote: "Pay constant attention to . . . your teaching." (1 Tim. 4:15, 16) So work hard on your talk assignments in the Theocratic Ministry School. Prepare for the ministry, and share in it regularly. Set and work toward spiritual goals, such as pioneering, Bethel service, or attending the Bible School for Single Brothers. Spirituality will help you to "flee from the desires incidental to youth."—2 Tim. 2:22.

[4] **Reliability and Faithfulness:** Because the brothers who were assigned to distribute food to needy Christians in the first century were "certified," evidently known for being reliable and faithful, the apostles did not have to worry about whether the work would be done. This allowed them to focus on other important matters. (Acts 6:1-4) Therefore, when you are given an assignment in the congregation, carry it out to the best of your ability. Imitate Noah, who carefully followed the instructions he was given to build the ark. (Gen. 6:22) Faithfulness is valued by Jehovah and demonstrates spiritual maturity.—1 Cor. 4:2; see the box "The Benefits of Training."

[5] As prophesied, Jehovah is speeding up the ingathering. (Isa. 60:22) On average, a quarter of a million people are getting baptized each year. With so many new ones coming into the truth, qualified spiritual men are needed to care for congregation responsibilities. Now more than ever, there is plenty of work to do in Jehovah's service. (1 Cor. 15:58) Young brothers, are you reaching out? If so, you are desirous of a very fine work indeed!

3. How important is spirituality, and how can it be developed?

4. What is the value of reliability and faithfulness?

5. Why should young brothers reach out?

The Benefits of Training

Qualified young brothers benefit when elders give them assignments and train them. A circuit overseer was sitting on the platform giving encouragement to a publisher after the meeting. He noticed a young boy standing nearby, so he asked if he was waiting to speak to him. The young brother replied that he was assigned to vacuum the platform after every meeting. His parents were ready to leave, but he did not want to go before he fulfilled his assignment. The circuit overseer gladly moved. He commented: "The elders in that congregation were alert to train qualified young brothers by giving them congregation assignments. As a result, it was not unusual for them to recommend a young brother as a ministerial servant when I served the congregation."

WEEK STARTING JULY 22

Song 22 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

jr chap. 12 ¶8-13 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Acts 22-25 (10 min.)

No. 1: Acts 22:17-30 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: In What Ways Are We in the World but No Part of the World?—John 17:15, 16 (5 min.)

No. 3: Is It Possible for Christians to Be Taken to Heaven With Their Physical Bodies?—*rs* p. 314 ¶1-2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 41

10 min: Are You Prepared for the New School Year? Discussion. Invite audience to outline some of the challenges Christian youths will face at school. Explain how parents can use the *Index,* the *Young People Ask* books, our Web site, and other theocratic tools during family worship to prepare their children for the challenges they will face during the school year. (1 Pet. 3:15) Choose one or two topics, and relate some of the helpful information found in our publications. Invite audience to comment on how they were able to give a witness while at school.

20 min: "New Initiatives for Public Witnessing." Questions and answers. Outline any local arrangements that the congregation has for participating in public witnessing using tables or mobile literature displays, and relate outstanding experiences.

Song 95 and Prayer

New Initiatives for Public Witnessing

[1] First-century Christians did more than preach from house to house. They also preached publicly. (Acts 20:20) For example, they went to the temple, where they knew many people could be found. (Acts 5:42) When in Athens, the apostle Paul preached every day to those on hand in the marketplace. (Acts 17:17) Today, our primary way of spreading the good news continues to be the house-to-house ministry. However, we also go to parking lots, businesses, parks, busy thoroughfares, and other places in order to preach to people wherever they can be found. While every publisher is encouraged to engage in public witnessing where possible, many will have the opportunity to participate in two exciting new initiatives for public witnessing.

[2] **Special Metropolitan Public Witnessing:** As reported in the *2013 Yearbook* on pages 16 and 17, a trial initiative for public witnessing began in New York City in November 2011. Tables and carts with attractive displays and literature in several languages were strategically placed in areas of the city with high pedestrian traffic. Each day thousands of people walked by, including many who live in secured apartment buildings and persons who are often away from home. The response was overwhelming. In just one recent month, 3,797 magazines and 7,986 books were placed. Many passersby requested a Bible study. Since the emphasis was on starting Bible studies, any addresses left by interested ones were immediately forwarded to the appropriate congregation to follow up on the interest.

[3] In view of the initiative's success, it is now being expanded worldwide to other densely populated metropolitan areas. The local branch office will identify which cities would benefit. Usually, these are cities with transportation hubs or a large concentration of office or apartment buildings that results in high pedestrian traffic. Thereafter, the branch office will initiate correspondence to the congregations that will participate and provide additional instructions. Regular and special pioneers are generally used, although in some places auxiliary pioneers also have a share in the work.

1. What example did first-century Christians set?

2. What trial initiative began in November 2011?

3. How is this initiative being expanded?

[4] **How the Witnessing Is Done:** Those involved in special metropolitan public witnessing usually wait for someone to come to the table or mobile display. When someone approaches, he is invited to take any literature that interests him. The pioneers gladly answer from the Scriptures any questions he may have. If he takes literature, the pioneers do not mention the donation arrangement. But if he inquires about how our work is funded, they may explain that donations can be sent to the address listed in the literature. When possible, they ask: "Would you like someone to visit your home?" or "Are you aware that a free Bible study comes with that publication?"

[5] Sharing in this initiative has been very rewarding. One couple wrote: "Standing at the table and seeing thousands of people go by each day has impressed upon our hearts the vast work that is being done to reach people all around the world. Seeing these masses of people and thinking about how Jehovah truly cares for each person has strengthened our resolve to continue putting the preaching work at the center of our lives. We imagine Jehovah scanning the hearts of all those who pass by the table, searching for those who are worthy. We have rarely felt so close to our angelic coworkers."

[6] **Public Witnessing That Is Organized Locally:** In addition to special metropolitan public witnessing, another new initiative is being organized by many bodies of elders in their local territory. With this initiative, publishers use a table or a mobile display at a busy location *within the congregation's territory boundary.* This is different from special metropolitan public witnessing, which uses participants from many congregations to preach in the same high-traffic areas in cities chosen by the branch office.—See the box "Good Cooperation Needed."

[7] The elders will consider whether the congregation's territory has areas of high pedestrian traffic and determine if it would

4. How is special metropolitan public witnessing done?

5. How has sharing in this new initiative been rewarding for one couple?

6. (a) What additional initiative for public witnessing is being organized in many congregations, and how is it different from special metropolitan public witnessing? (b) How may congregations cooperate when engaging in public witnessing?

7. Where it is practical, how will the elders organize public witnessing locally?

Good Cooperation Needed

It has been reported that publishers from neighboring congregations sometimes engage in public witnessing on the same street, in the same parking lot, and in front of the same businesses or transportation hubs. Publishers from different congregations have left magazines in the same lobby, waiting room, or laundromat and have preached to the same businesses. This has caused businesspeople and neighborhood residents to feel overwhelmed on occasion, even when publishers are not preaching at the same time. Therefore, it is generally best to *stay within the congregation's assigned territory* when witnessing publicly.

If publishers wish to witness publicly in a neighboring congregation's territory, they should talk to their service overseer. He can then contact the service overseer of the other congregation to obtain permission before those in his congregation proceed. Where different-language congregations are assigned to preach in the same area, the service overseers should communicate with each other so as to avoid irritating people in the neighborhood unnecessarily. By means of good cooperation, all things can take place "decently and by arrangement."—1 Cor. 14:40.

be practical to organize public witnessing. Possible locations for a table or mobile display include transportation hubs, public squares, parks, busy streets, shopping malls, college campuses, airports, and locations of annual events. There is an advantage in having a table set up in the same location, on the same days, and at the same times. It has been found that tables set up at shopping malls are more effective than those outside a single large store where individuals are usually focused on their reason for visiting that specific store. Some locations, such as busy sidewalks, may be more conducive to a smaller mobile literature display. Elders can download from our Web site special files for making displays of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines and the *Bible Teach* book. These files have been prepared specifically for use in this form of public witnessing. Those who participate will carry out the work in much the same way as those engaged in special metropolitan public witnessing and should follow the direction of the service overseer closely. If they obtain an address from an interested person who does not live in their territory, they should promptly fill out a *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form and give it to the secretary.

[8] **Public Witnessing in Your Personal Ministry:** Some congregations may not have a location in their territory that has sufficient pedestrian traffic to justify setting up a table or making use of a mobile literature display. However, even in those congregations, publishers are encouraged to consider including public witnessing in their personal ministry. Is there a shopping area, a strip mall, or a busy store in your territory? Is there a park or a place where people gather? Are there public events that are periodically held in the territory? If so, you may still be able to enjoy public witnessing.

[9] It is Jehovah's will that "all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) Therefore, we are trying to reach as many people as possible with the Kingdom message before the end comes. (Matt. 24:14) In many places it is a challenge to find people at home. Yet, we may be able to speak to them when they are away from home in a public setting. Public witnessing may be the only way that some people will get an opportunity to hear the good news. Therefore, may we fully accomplish our ministry by preaching to people wherever they may be found. —2 Tim. 4:5.

8. If there are no organized efforts in the congregation for public witnessing, what opportunities to preach publicly may still be available?

9. Why should we be conscientious about preaching to people wherever they may be found?

WEEK STARTING JULY 29

Song 51 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 12 ¶14-19, box on p. 148 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Acts 26-28 (10 min.)
No. 1: Acts 26:19-32 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Will Faithful Christians Be Taken to Heaven Secretly Without Dying?—*rs* p. 314 ¶3–p. 315 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Ways That God's Spirit Is Manifest in His Servants—Gal. 5:22, 23; Rev. 22:17 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 96

10 min: Preach in a Natural Manner. Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 128, paragraph 1, to page 129, paragraph 1. Briefly interview an experienced publisher who has overcome shyness. What has helped him to feel less nervous in the ministry?

10 min: Question Box. Discussion by an elder.

10 min: Prove Yourselves Sons of Your Father. (Matt. 5:43-45) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 89, paragraph 3, to page 90, paragraph 1, and page 164, paragraph 2. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 80 and Prayer

QUESTION BOX

■ **Before an unbaptized publisher is approved for baptism, to what extent should he be attending congregation meetings and sharing in the ministry?**

Getting baptized is the most important decision a person will make. Therefore, before an individual is approved for baptism, he must have a reasonable understanding of what God requires of him. In addition, he should already be demonstrating his determination to live by God's requirements.

Christians are commanded not to forsake the gathering of themselves together, so an unbaptized publisher should already be showing diligence in attending congregation meetings. (Heb. 10:24, 25) He would generally also be participating by commenting. Likely, he would be enrolled in the Theocratic Ministry School, although this is not a requirement.

In addition, since Christians have been given the commission to preach the good news and make disciples, an unbaptized publisher should be regularly sharing in the ministry before baptism. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) How many months should he be publishing before he can be baptized? Logically, he should be allowed sufficient time to demonstrate that he is steadfastly determined to have a regular and zealous share in the ministry month after month. (Ps. 78:37) However, it need not be very long from the time that he starts publishing until he qualifies for baptism, perhaps just a few months. How much field service time should he be reporting? There are no hard-and-fast rules. The elders should consider each publisher's unique circumstances and be reasonable and balanced.—Luke 21:1-4.

The elders (or ministerial servants in congregations with very few elders) who meet with a baptismal candidate should remember that every person is different, and they should use good judgment in determining whether he qualifies for baptism. They would expect him to have a real desire to be one of Jehovah's Witnesses and to demonstrate an appreciation for his privilege of associating with Jehovah's organization and sharing in the ministry. The elders understand that he has not yet grown to spiritual maturity or gained the skill of experienced baptized evangelizers. If the elders feel that the candidate is not qualified for baptism, they should kindly inform him of the Scriptural reasons for their decision and help him to receive spiritual assistance.

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 5

Song 77 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 12 ¶20-25, box on p. 151 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Romans 1-4 (10 min.)

No. 1: Romans 3:21–4:8 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Why True Christians Consider Themselves to Be "Aliens and Temporary Residents" in the World.—1 Pet. 2:11; 1 John 2:15-17 (5 min.)

No. 3: What Protection Will There Be for True Christians During the Great Tribulation?—*rs* p. 315 ¶3–p. 316 ¶3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 79

10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in August. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask and then invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Luke 5:27-32 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.

Song 119 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **July and August:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

■ Groups of 20 or more planning to visit the United States branch office facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill should first correspond with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204, or by fax at (845) 306-0200. At least three weeks prior to visiting, please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. *Lodging information may be obtained from the congregation secretary.* Before your visit, please review the March 2008 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box and the brochure *Dress and Grooming for Visitors Touring Bethel.*

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in August

"Almost everyone prays at one time or another. Even atheists have prayed when in trouble. Do you think that God listens to all prayers?" Allow for response. Show the back of the August 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.
Note: This presentation should be demonstrated during the meeting for field service on August 3.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM August 1

"We're visiting briefly because many are alarmed over how widespread pornography has become. Many others, however, feel that pornography is a harmless diversion. What's your opinion? [Allow for response.] Jesus said that we can determine whether something is good by the fruitage it produces. [Read Matthew 7:17.] This magazine considers the fruitage produced by pornography. It also gives practical tips on how to break free from pornography."

Awake!® August

"Most of us want to live as long as we can. Do you think advances in science will one day make it possible to live forever? [Allow for response.] Notice this intriguing promise. [Read 1 Corinthians 15:26.] But how will God accomplish this—through science or by some other means? And why do we now grow old and die? This magazine shows how the Bible answers these questions."

Field Service Highlights

We are happy to report two new peaks during the month of January 2013. The Turks and Caicos Islands reported 55 regular pioneers and 3,692 return visits. In addition, when compared with the same month last year, the number of regular pioneers increased by 5.5 percent in the Bahamas, 8.8 percent in Bermuda, and 7.4 percent in the United States. What a pleasure it is to see so many willingly expanding their ministry! —Ps. 110:3.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

AUGUST 2013

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 12

Song 112 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 13 ¶1-7 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Romans 5-8 (10 min.)
No. 1: Romans 6:21–7:12 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Are Some Christians Taken to Heaven to Be With Christ?—*rs* p. 316 ¶5-8 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why Putting Material Security Ahead of Spiritual Pursuits Leads to Disaster
—Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 6:10 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 37
10 min: "God's Word Is Beneficial for Teaching." Questions and answers. Announce the dates of the circuit assembly if these are known.
10 min: How an Outline Can Help Us in the Ministry. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 167, paragraph 1, to page 168, paragraph 1. Using the offer for the month, include a soliloquy of a publisher taking a few minutes before going in the ministry to prepare a mental outline of his presentation.
10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Acts 8:26-31 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.
Song 61 and Prayer

God's Word Is Beneficial for Teaching

[1] Our "Grand Instructor," Jehovah, is the best teacher in the universe. (Isa. 30:20, 21) How, though, does Jehovah instruct us? He has provided a book that excels all others —his inspired Word, the Bible. How can divine teaching benefit us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually? The answer to this question will be considered during our circuit assembly program for the 2014 service year. The theme of the program, "God's Word Is Beneficial for Teaching," is based on 2 Timothy 3:16.

[2] **Look for These Main Points:** The main points of the program will be highlighted by the answers to the following questions:

- What effect does divine teaching have on our lives? (Isa. 48:17, 18)
- If we seek to make changes in our circumstances so as to serve Jehovah full-time, of what can we be assured? (Mal. 3:10)
- What should be our reaction when confronted with "strange teachings"? (Heb. 13:9)
- How can we imitate Jesus' "way of teaching"? (Matt. 7:28, 29)
- Why should teachers in the congregation teach themselves? (Rom. 2:21)
- For what is God's Word beneficial? (2 Tim. 3:16)
- How are people affected by the "rocking" of the nations? (Hag. 2:6, 7)
- What confidence does Jehovah have in us? (Eph. 5:1)
- Why must we work hard to remain in Jehovah's teaching? (Luke 13:24)

[3] Earlier in 2 Timothy chapter 3, just before writing the words on which the theme of this program is based, Paul described the critical times that would characterize the last days. He wrote: "Wicked men and impostors will advance from bad to worse, misleading and being misled." (2 Tim. 3:13) So that we will not be misled, how important it is for us to listen to and apply divine teaching! Therefore, may we be determined to attend and pay close attention to this timely program.

1. What is the theme of the circuit assembly for the 2014 service year, and what question will be answered by the program?
2. The main points will be highlighted by the answers to what questions?
3. Why is it important for us to attend and pay close attention to this timely program?

WEEK STARTING AUGUST 19

Song 51 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 13 ¶8-13 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Romans 9-12 (10 min.)

No. 1: Romans 9:19-33 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: If Someone Says, 'Do You Believe in the Rapture?'—*rs* p. 316 ¶9–p. 317 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Scriptural Reasons Why We Should Not Fear Men—Luke 12:4-12 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 113

10 min: "God's Word Exerts Power." Questions and answers. Announce the date of the special assembly day if this is known.

10 min: How to Reply to Local Conversation Stoppers. Discussion by the service overseer. Mention two or three potential conversation stoppers that are encountered in the local territory but are not considered in the *Reasoning* book. Invite audience to comment on how we might reply. Have one brief demonstration.

10 min: Preach With Boldness. (Acts 4: 29) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 49, paragraphs 1-6; and page 69, paragraphs 1-6. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 92 and Prayer

God's Word Exerts Power

1 Unlike anything that originates with imperfect men, the Bible has the power to transform us, bringing our thoughts and ways into harmony with Jehovah's will. Just how powerful is the Word of God? How can we fully utilize its power in our lives? How can we use it more effectively to assist others? We are confident that all will be built up spiritually as these points are considered during the special assembly day program prepared for the 2014 service year. Its theme is "God's Word Exerts Power," drawn from Hebrews 4:12.

1. What is the theme of the special assembly day for the 2014 service year?

2 **Find Answers to These Questions:** As you listen to the program, make note of the answers to the questions listed below.

- Why should we have confidence in Jehovah's Word? (Ps. 29:4)
- How can we experience the power of God's Word in our own lives? (Ps. 34:8)
- How can you unleash the power of God's Word in your ministry? (2 Tim. 3:16, 17)
- How can we avoid falling prey to the deceptive power of Satan's world? (1 John 5:19)
- How can you as a youth attain spiritual success? (Jer. 17:7)
- How can we become powerful even when we are weak? (2 Cor. 12:10)
- What is the key to ongoing transformation, even with regard to strongly entrenched habits and attitudes? (Eph. 4:23)

3 How we will benefit from hearing this important information! In addition, the special assembly day, like the circuit assembly and the district convention, will give us opportunities to widen out and to enjoy fellowship with brothers and sisters from outside our congregation. (Ps. 133:1-3; 2 Cor. 6: 11-13) So allow time to associate with old friends and to make new ones. If a visiting speaker such as a district overseer or a brother from Bethel has been assigned to your special assembly day, why not take the opportunity to welcome him and his wife? Indeed, we have many reasons to look forward to the upcoming special assembly day!

2. We should listen for the answers to what questions?

3. Besides listening to the program, how else can we benefit from the special assembly day?

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WEEK STARTING AUGUST 26

Song 63 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 13 ¶14-19 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Romans 13-16 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 11

10 min: "Emphasize Starting Bible Studies on the First Saturday." Talk. Afterward, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in September. Encourage all to have a share.

10 min: Methods of Preaching the Good News —Group Territory and Personal Territory. Discussion of *Organized* book, page 102, paragraph 3, to page 104, paragraph 1. Interview the territory servant regarding local arrangements for requesting and working territory.

10 min: Why We Are Not False Prophets. Discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, page 136, paragraph 2, to the end of page 137. Have one suggestion from page 137 demonstrated.

Song 116 and Prayer

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 26, 2013. The date when each point is scheduled for discussion is included so that research can be done when preparing for the school each week.

1. What very important lesson can we learn from King Herod's willing acceptance of undue praise and glory from men? (Acts 12:21-23) [July 1, *w08* 5/15 p. 32 par. 7]
2. How can Christian youths benefit themselves by analyzing and following Timothy's example? (Acts 16:1, 2) [July 8, *w08* 5/15 p. 32 par. 10]
3. After hearing Apollos "speak boldly" in the synagogue in Ephesus, how did Aquila and Priscilla lovingly assist him? (Acts 18:24-26) [July 15, *w10* 6/15 p. 11 par. 4]
4. What Scriptural basis is there for Jehovah's Witnesses to utilize the courts of the land to protect their right to preach? (Acts 25:10-12) [July 22, *bt* p. 198 par. 6]
5. How did the apostle Paul continue to find ways to witness even while imprisoned in Rome, and how do Jehovah's servants today follow his example? (Acts 28:17, 23, 30, 31) [July 29, *bt* pp. 215-217 pars. 19-23]
6. Why does the Bible denounce homosexual acts as unnatural and obscene? (Rom. 1:26, 27) [Aug. 5, *g* 1/12 p. 28 par. 7]
7. How could "the ransom paid by Christ Jesus" in 33 C.E. cover "the sins that occurred" before it was paid? (Rom. 3:24, 25) [Aug. 5, *w08* 6/15 p. 29 par. 6]
8. What loving provision has Jehovah made for the times when we find ourselves facing extremely perplexing situations and do not know exactly what to pray for? (Rom. 8:26, 27) [Aug. 12, *w08* 6/15 p. 30 par. 10]
9. What is implied by the admonition to "follow the course of hospitality"? (Rom. 12:13) [Aug. 19, *w09* 10/15 pp. 5-6 pars. 12-13]
10. How do we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ," as the apostle Paul advises? (Rom. 13:14) [Aug. 26, *w05* 1/1 pp. 11-12 pars. 20-22]

Emphasize Starting Bible Studies on the First Saturday

Beginning in May of 2011, publishers were encouraged to try to start Bible studies on the first Saturday of each month. To help us do that, a regular feature of the public edition of *The Watchtower* entitled "Bible Questions Answered" has been prepared. Therefore, the meeting for field service held on the first Saturday should highlight how this feature can be used to start Bible studies and should include a demonstration of a presentation.

The elders can choose to have each field service group meet separately on the first Saturday, or they can decide to have the groups combine and perhaps meet at the Kingdom Hall. However, if multiple congregations use the Kingdom Hall, no congregation should move this special day for starting Bible studies to another day in order to have a combined meeting for field service.

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 2

Song 47 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 13 ¶20-26 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 1-9 (10 min.)

No. 1: 1 Corinthians 4:18–5:13 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Does a Strange Feeling of Being Familiar With Entirely New Acquaintances and Places Prove Reincarnation to Be a Fact?—*rs* p. 317 ¶3–p. 319 ¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: How Christians Maintain Joy in Spite of Illness—Phil. 4:6, 7 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 72

10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in September. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask. Next, invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: Imitate the Example of Barnabas. Discussion. Invite comments from the audience on how imitating Barnabas' example can help us as evangelizers.

Song 65 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **August:** Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November:** Special campaign distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 38, "Can the Dead Really Live Again?" If the congregation works all of its territory or places its entire supply of *Kingdom News,* publishers should offer *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ Beginning the week of October 28, 2013, the brochure *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?* will be considered at the Congregation Bible Study. After completing this brochure, the book *Draw Close to Jehovah* will be considered beginning the week of January 6, 2014. Congregations needing a supply of these publications should request them on their next literature request.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "How Love and Faith Conquer the World."

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in September

"Hello. We're visiting briefly to provide a reliable resource to help couples make marriage a success. In your opinion, what's the biggest obstacle to a happy marriage?" [Allow for response.] Show the back of the September 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM September 1

"We're visiting because many in our community wonder why God has allowed so much suffering. Have you ever wondered about that? [Allow for response.] It's interesting that the Bible promises that there will be a time when mourning and pain will be gone. [Read Revelation 21:4.] This magazine examines five fundamental reasons why there is so much suffering. It also shows what the Bible says about how God will end suffering."

Awake!® September

"We're here to provide information regarding a popular holiday that's approaching —Halloween. Some have chosen not to celebrate, pointing to warnings such as this one from the Bible. [Read Leviticus 19:31.] Other people do not believe in supernatural spirits and view Halloween as harmless fun. What's your opinion about this holiday? [Allow for response.] This magazine reveals the dark origins of Halloween."

Field Service Highlights

When comparing the first six months of this service year with the same period the previous year, the number of regular pioneers increased by 8.8 percent in the Bahamas and by 7.3 percent in the United States. Also during this same period, the number of return visits increased by 6.8 percent in Bermuda and by 13.4 percent in the Turks and Caicos Islands. We rejoice that Jehovah's servants take seriously their responsibility of 'watering' seeds of Kingdom truth.—1 Cor. 3:6.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY
SEPTEMBER 2013

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 9

Song 62 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 14 ¶1-7 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 10-16 (10 min.)
No. 1: 1 Corinthians 14:7-25 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: How Can a Sinful Human 'Soften the Face of Jehovah'?—2 Chron. 33:12, 13; Isa. 55: 6, 7 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why Does the Account at John 9:1, 2 Not Prove Reincarnation?—*rs* p. 319 ¶2–p. 320 ¶2 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 89
10 min: ***Youths—What Will You Do With Your Life?*—Part 1.** Talk based on paragraphs 1-9 of the *Your Life* tract. Warmly commend youths who are seeking to put the Kingdom first.
10 min: Experiences Using the *Good News* Brochure. Discussion. Invite audience to relate outstanding experiences they have had using the *Good News* brochure to start a Bible study. Include a demonstration showing how the brochure may be used to make a return visit on someone who previously accepted the magazines.—See the March 2013 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 7.
10 min: "Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Amos." Questions and answers.
Song 96 and Prayer

Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Amos

[1] Have you ever felt unqualified to preach because of having a humble background? If so, you can take courage from the example of Amos. He was a sheep raiser and a seasonal laborer, yet Jehovah empowered him to proclaim a weighty message. (Amos 1:1; 7:14, 15) Similarly, in our day, Jehovah uses those who are humble and lowly. (1 Cor. 1:27-29) What other lessons for our ministry can we learn from the prophet Amos?

1. Why can the example of Amos be a source of encouragement to us?

[2] **Remain Firm in the Face of Opposition:** When Amaziah, a calf-worshipping priest in the northern ten-tribe kingdom of Israel, heard the prophesying of Amos, he retorted, in effect: 'Go home! Leave us alone! We have our own religion!' (Amos 7:12, 13) In his appeal to King Jeroboam to ban the work of Amos, Amaziah twisted the words of the prophet. (Amos 7:7-11) But Amos was not intimidated. Today, some clergymen seek political support in their effort to persecute Jehovah's people. However, Jehovah assures us that no weapon formed against us will have lasting success.—Isa. 54:17.

[3] **Declare God's Judgment and Future Blessings:** Although Amos prophesied judgment against the ten-tribe kingdom of Israel, he concluded the Bible book bearing his name with Jehovah's promise of restoration and abundant blessings. (Amos 9:13-15) We too speak of God's coming "day of judgment," but this is only part of the "good news of the kingdom" that we must declare. (2 Pet. 3:7; Matt. 24:14) Jehovah's destruction of the wicked at Armageddon will clear the way for a paradise earth.—Ps. 37:34.

[4] Preaching the Kingdom message in a world with many opposers certainly tests our determination to live up to our dedication and to do Jehovah's will. (John 15:19) Nevertheless, we are certain that Jehovah will continue to qualify us to accomplish his will, as he did Amos.—2 Cor. 3:5.

2. Why can we remain firm in the face of opposition in the ministry?
3. What twofold message do we declare today?
4. What assurance do we have that we can accomplish Jehovah's will?

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 16

Song 21 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 14 ¶8-13 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 1-7 (10 min.)
No. 1: 2 Corinthians 1:15–2:11 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: How Much of a Difference Is There Between Reincarnation and the Hope Held Out in the Bible?—*rs* p. 320 ¶3-4 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Must One Do to Take Refuge in the Name of Jehovah?—Zeph. 3:12 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 41
10 min: ***Youths—What Will You Do With Your Life?*—Part 2.** Talk based on the *Your Life* tract, from paragraph 10 to the conclusion. Briefly interview someone who has pursued full-time service as a youth. What influenced his decision to do so? What blessings has he enjoyed?
10 min: When You Are Working Alone. Discussion. (1) When we preach without a partner, what will help us to maintain joy? (2) What cautions are in order when making return visits alone? (3) If no one usually meets for field service on the days that we share in the ministry, how can we encourage others in the congregation to join us? (4) What are the advantages of purposely working alone on occasion whenever and wherever it is safe to do so?
10 min: "*Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?*" Questions and answers. Briefly review the design and features of the brochure.—See the March 2013 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 3.
Song 107 and Prayer

Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?

1 Beginning the week of October 28, *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?* will be considered at the Congregation Bible Study. This new brochure, released at the "Safeguard Your Heart!" District Convention, is designed to direct Bible students to the organization. Not only will consideration of this publication heighten our appreciation for being a part of Jehovah's organization but it will also help us become well-acquainted with this valuable tool for the ministry.—Ps. 48:13.

1. When will we begin considering *Who Are Doing Jehovah's Will Today?* and how will this benefit us?

2 **How It Will Be Studied:** The conductor will need to apportion his time so that each lesson receives equal coverage. He will introduce each of the 28 lessons by reading the question that forms the title. Then, he will invite the reader to read the introductory paragraph. Next, the conductor will ask the audience a question that he has prepared for the introduction. Thereafter, each section that begins with a statement in bold print should be read and discussed separately. After the section is read, the conductor will invite comments on how it answers the question that is the title of the lesson. The brochure also has many illustrations that can be commented on. Key scriptures should be read as time allows. Before moving on to the next lesson, the conductor will review by asking the questions at the bottom of the page. If there is a "Find Out More" box, he will have it read, and then he will invite comments from the audience on how a Bible student will benefit from following the suggestion. If time allows at the conclusion of the study, the conductor may use the titles of the lessons as review questions. Keep in mind that this is not necessarily the procedure for conducting a home Bible study.

3 In order to benefit to the full, come to the meeting well-prepared. Endeavor to share in commenting. During the discussion, think about why the material is beneficial for Bible students. May our consideration of this new brochure equip us to help others to join us in doing God's will so that they too may have the prospect of remaining forever.—1 John 2:17.

2. How will the brochure be studied in the congregation?
3. How may we benefit to the full from studying this brochure?

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WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 23

Song 109 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 14 ¶14-19 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 8-13 (10 min.)
No. 1: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: If Someone Says, 'I Believe in Reincarnation'—*rs* p. 321 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: How Are We to Understand 1 Corinthians 10:13? (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 43
***5 min:* "I'll Take Your Literature if You Take Mine."** Discussion. Invite audience to comment on how they have successfully replied to this suggestion.
10 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Talk by the service overseer. Review the congregation's activity during the past service year. Focus on the good things that were accomplished, and give appropriate commendation. Mention one or two aspects of the ministry that the congregation can work on during the coming service year, and offer practical suggestions.
15 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Acts 16:19-40 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry.
Song 44 and Prayer

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 30

Song 99 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 14 ¶20-25 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Galatians 1-6 (10 min.)
No. 1: Galatians 1:18–2:10 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Why Are There So Many Religions?—*rs* p. 322 ¶1–p. 323 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why Jehovah Is Worthy to Receive Worship—Rev. 4:11 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 108
10 min: "Could You Extend an Invitation?" Discussion. Afterward, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in October.
10 min: Methods of Preaching the Good News —Witnessing to People of All Languages. Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 104, paragraph 2, to page 105, paragraph 3. Include a demonstration.
10 min: Never Be Anxious. (Matt. 6:31-33) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 138, paragraph 3, to page 139, paragraph 3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
Song 40 and Prayer

"I'll Take Your Literature if You Take Mine"

That is the proposition of some householders. Since we do not exchange our Bible study aids for religious literature that disseminates error, how might we answer tactfully? (Rom. 1:25) We could say: "Thank you for your offer. What does this say about the solution to mankind's problems? [Allow for response. If he invites you to read his literature to find the answer, you can remind him that you did not offer literature without telling him what it contains. Then read or quote Matthew 6:9, 10.] Jesus indicated that God's Kingdom will cause God's will to be done on earth. Therefore, the only religious literature that I read highlights God's Kingdom. May I show you from the Bible some specific things that God's Kingdom will accomplish?"

Could You Extend an Invitation?

In many congregations there are publishers whose share in the ministry is limited because of chronic health problems or advancing age. (2 Cor. 4:16) Could you invite one in such circumstances to accompany you on a Bible study? If the publisher is housebound, perhaps you could even conduct the study at his or her home. Could you occasionally make arrangements to take an infirm publisher with you to a few doors in the house-to-house ministry or on a return visit or two? Many elderly publishers have much experience in the ministry. Therefore, your efforts will not result only in encouragement to them. You too will benefit. (Rom. 1:12) In addition, your efforts to demonstrate love in this way will be rewarded by Jehovah.—Prov. 19:17; 1 John 3:17, 18.

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 7

Song 92 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 15 ¶1-6, box on p. 184 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Ephesians 1-6 (10 min.)
No. 1: Ephesians 4:1-16 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: What It Means to Seek First God's Righteousness—Matt. 6:33 (5 min.)
No. 3: Is It True That There Is Good in All Religions?—*rs* p. 323 ¶3-5 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 59
10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in October. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask. Next, invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: Those Who Are Working Hard. (1 Thess. 5:12, 13) Interview two elders. What are their congregation and other theocratic assignments? How are they able to care for these in addition to secular and family responsibilities? How do they make the ministry a priority? How have family members given them support?
Song 123 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **September and October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November:** Special campaign distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 38, "Can the Dead Really Live Again?" If the congregation works all of its territory or places its entire supply of *Kingdom News,* publishers should offer *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?*

■ The special public talk for the 2014 Memorial season will be given during the week of April 21. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 21.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in October

"We're making just a brief visit on our neighbors today. Many whom we have talked to say that one of the most difficult situations they have had to face is the death of a loved one. Is that how you feel too? [Allow for response.] I found this to be encouraging." Show the back of the October 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM October 1

"We're visiting briefly to encourage Bible reading. We know that some people have an interest in the Bible; others do not. What about you? [Allow for response.] The Bible makes this bold claim. [Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13.] I'm sure you will agree that if it is true that the Bible is a book from God, then it is worth reading. This magazine briefly outlines what the Bible is all about and why it should interest us."

Awake!® October

"I would like to hear your opinion on this question: Is contentment possible if we do not have a lot materially? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says. [Read 1 Timothy 6:8.] This magazine presents a balanced view of material possessions and discusses three valuable things that money cannot buy."

Field Service Highlights

On March 26, 2013, the Memorial of Christ's death was attended by 2,504,114 in the United States, 4,227 in the Bahamas, 1,088 in Bermuda, and 1,242 in the Turks and Caicos Islands in obedience to Jesus' command. (Luke 22:19) In addition, a total of 356,673 reported as auxiliary pioneers in these locations for the month of March.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2013

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 14

Song 32 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 15 ¶7-12 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Philippians 1–Colossians 4 (10 min.)
No. 1: Philippians 3:17–4:9 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Is It Proper to Leave the Religion of One's Parents?—*rs* p. 324 ¶1-3 (5 min.)
No. 3: How Can Prayer Help Us to Fight Temptations?—Luke 11:9-13; Jas. 1:5 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 68
15 min: Our International Unity Honors Jehovah. Talk based on the *Organized* book, page 165, paragraph 2, to the subheading on page 168. Have some in the audience relate published experiences that show how the unity and love of Jehovah's Witnesses resulted in a witness.
15 min: *"Kingdom News* No. 38 to Be Distributed in November!" Questions and answers. Distribute a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 38 to each one in attendance. Invite the service overseer to outline local arrangements for covering the territory. Using the brief sample presentation on page 4, demonstrate how the *Kingdom News* may be offered.
Song 53 and Prayer

Kingdom News No. 38 to Be Distributed in November!

[1] Death is an enemy of all people, regardless of their beliefs. (1 Cor. 15:26) Many wonder where the dead are and whether they will see them again. Therefore, congregations around the earth will participate in a month-long distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 38, entitled "Can the Dead Really Live Again?" This special campaign will begin on November 1. After the special distribution, *Kingdom News* No. 38 will be used in the ministry as a tract.

[2] **How It Is Designed:** *Kingdom News* No. 38 is designed to be folded lengthwise so that the front shows the intriguing title along with the words "Would you say . . . yes? no? maybe?" When the reader opens the *Kingdom News,* he will see what the Bible says in answer to the title question and what the Bible's promise can mean for him. He will also see reasons why he can believe the Bible. The back of the *Kingdom News* poses an interesting question for him to think about and invites him to learn more.

[3] **How It Will Be Distributed:** This campaign will be similar to campaigns for distributing Memorial and district convention invitations. The elders will provide direction on how the local territory will be covered, in harmony with the letter they received dated April 1, 2013. Congregations with limited territory can offer to help nearby congregations that have more territory. When obtaining your supply of *Kingdom News* No. 38, remember to take only the amount that you will need for one week. During the campaign, copies may be distributed in public witnessing after all the house-to-house territories have been worked. If all copies are placed before the end of the month, the literature offer should be featured. On the first Saturday, we will focus on participating in the special campaign rather than on starting Bible studies. On weekends, we should also offer the magazines when appropriate. Are you making arrangements to have a full share in this special campaign?

1. What questions do people have about the dead, and how will these concerns be addressed in November?

2. How is *Kingdom News* No. 38 designed?

3. How will *Kingdom News* No. 38 be distributed?

WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 21

Song 33 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jr chap. 15 ¶13-20 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Thessalonians 1–2 Thessalonians 3 (10 min.)
No. 1: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-20 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: What Can We Learn From the Good and the Bad Things That Solomon Did? —Rom. 15:4 (5 min.)
No. 3: What Is the Bible's Viewpoint as to Interfaith?—*rs* p. 325 ¶1–p. 326 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 125
15 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Mark 1:40-42, Mark 7:32-35, and Luke 8:43-48 read. Consider how these accounts can help us in our ministry.
15 min: "Use Our Web Site to Teach Your Children." Questions and answers. When considering paragraph 3, explain where to find the "Parents' Guide" and give an example of the instructions found there. When considering paragraph 4, invite comments on how families have made good use of our official Web site for their family worship.
Song 88 and Prayer

Use Our Web Site to Teach Your Children

[1] Our Web site, jw.org, is designed to appeal to people of all ages. The section of the Web site entitled "Children" (go to Bible Teachings > Children) helps young children and their parents to draw close to one another and to Jehovah. (Deut. 6:6, 7) How can you use this section to teach your children?

[2] **Be Adaptable:** Each child has unique needs. (1 Cor. 13:11) How, then, can you select age-appropriate material to study with your children? Ask yourself: 'What will capture my children's interest? How much will they understand? How long is their attention span?' With children who are three years of age or younger, you might discuss the stories found under "My Bible Lessons." Other families enjoy the Bible stories in the section "Teach Your Children." Also, consider the following options.

[3] **Family Worship Projects:** These projects are tools to help family heads study with their children. To learn how to use the stories and activities, click the download button, and read the "Parents' Guide" for each project. Use picture activities, such as coloring pages, to teach younger children. Help older children to complete the study activities. All the activities in each project relate to the same Bible story or lesson, so children of all ages can participate in the same family worship project.

[4] **Become Jehovah's Friend:** The videos, songs, and activities in this section of our Web site help parents to inculcate God's Word into their little children. (Deut. 31:12) Each short animated video teaches an important lesson. Activities such as search-and-find games underscore those lessons. Since children often like to sing—and songs help children to remember what they have learned—Kingdom songs and songs written especially for children are posted regularly.

[5] Parents, Jehovah wants you to be successful mothers and fathers. So ask him to help you teach your children the truth. (Judg. 13:8) With Jehovah's support, you can train your children to become "wise for salvation through the faith in connection with Christ Jesus."—2 Tim. 3:15; Prov. 4:1-4.

1. What is the objective of the section of our Web site entitled "Children"?
2. How can you select age-appropriate material to study with your children?
3. How can parents effectively use the stories and activities found under "Family Worship Projects"?
4. What can be found in the section "Become Jehovah's Friend"?
5. Why should parents ask Jehovah to help them to teach their children the truth?

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WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 28

Song 31 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jl p. 3 and Lessons 1-2 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: 1 Timothy 1–2 Timothy 4 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 61
***5* min: "What Will You Do During the Holidays?"** Talk.
10 min: Highlight the Practical Value of the Good News. Discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 159. Demonstrate how the *Bible Teach* book might be presented by using an issue of local concern.
15 min: The Importance of Being on Time. Discussion. (1) How does Jehovah set a good example of being punctual? (Hab. 2:3) (2) How does our being on time for meetings and the ministry show respect for Jehovah and consideration for others? (3) How are the field service group and the conductor affected when we are late for the meeting for field service? (4) If we tell an interested person or Bible student that we will return at a certain time, why is it important that we be prompt? (Matt. 5:37) (5) What practical suggestions will help us to be on time for appointments in our ministry and for congregation meetings?
Song 69 and Prayer

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 28, 2013.

1. What does it mean to have "the mind of Christ"? (1 Cor. 2:16) [Sept. 2, *w08* 7/15 p. 27 par. 7]
2. In what ways do we "flee from fornication"? (1 Cor. 6:18) [Sept. 2, *w08* 7/15 p. 27 par. 9; *w04* 2/15 p. 12 par. 9]
3. What did Paul mean when he wrote that women should "keep silent in the congregations"? (1 Cor. 14:34) [Sept. 9, *w12* 9/1 p. 9, box]
4. How should Paul's words recorded at 2 Corinthians 1:24 affect elders today? [Sept. 16, *w13* 1/15 p. 27 pars. 2-3]
5. How may we be guided by the statement found at 2 Corinthians 9:7? [Sept. 23, *g* 5/08 p. 21, box]
6. How may we benefit from heeding Paul's counsel found at Galatians 6:4? [Sept. 30, *w12* 12/15 p. 13 par. 18]
7. What does it mean "to observe the oneness of the spirit"? (Eph. 4:3) [Oct. 7, *w12* 7/15 p. 28 par. 7]
8. How did Paul feel about the things he had left behind? (Phil. 3:8) [Oct. 14, *w12* 3/15 p. 27 par. 12]
9. What is the import of the counsel: "Let us not sleep on as the rest do"? (1 Thess. 5:6) [Oct. 21, *w12* 3/15 p. 10 par. 4]
10. How was Jesus' sacrificial death "a corresponding ransom"? (1 Tim. 2:6) [Oct. 28, *w11* 6/15 p. 13 par. 11]

What Will You Do During the Holidays?

Because many people are home from work during religious and national holidays, these are often good times for us to share in the ministry. Congregations are encouraged to make special arrangements for holiday witnessing. If many in the territory will be sleeping later than usual, it would be good to adjust the time for the meeting for field service. An announcement may be made during the Service Meeting informing the congregation of any special arrangements for holiday witnessing and encouraging all who can to participate. Of course, holidays also afford us time to rest or to care for personal matters. But why not set aside part of the day for the ministry? Then you will enjoy the refreshment that comes from engaging in sacred service.—Matt. 11:29, 30.

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 4

Song 116 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jl Lessons 3-4 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Titus 1–Philemon (10 min.)
No. 1: Titus 2:1-15 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Is Belonging to an Organized Religion Necessary?—*rs* p. 326 ¶2–p. 327 ¶2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why We Should Not "Pay Attention to False Stories"—1 Tim. 1:3, 4; 2 Tim. 4:3, 4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 95
10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in November. Discussion based on the following questions: When appropriate, why should we offer the magazines on weekends while sharing in the distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 38? What would be appropriate opportunities to do so? What could we say to make the transition from the *Kingdom News* to the magazines? Demonstrate how each issue may be offered along with *Kingdom News* No. 38.
10 min: Local needs.
10 min: The Word of God Exerts Power. (Heb. 4:12) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 57, paragraph 1, to page 59, paragraph 3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
Song 114 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. **November:** Special campaign distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 38. If the congregation works all of its territory or places its entire supply of *Kingdom News,* publishers should offer *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **January**: Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

■ Many publishers and interested persons have benefited personally from literacy classes arranged by the body of elders. When there is a need, the elders may organize such classes "to teach people how to read and write in order for them to engage in personal Bible study and to teach others the truth."—*km* 10/11 p. 4; *be* pp. 21-23.

Sample Presentations

Kingdom News No. 38

"I'm sharing in a worldwide campaign to distribute this important message. Here is your copy."

Note: In order to cover the territory, keep your presentation brief. However, in some cases the householder may show genuine interest and may wish to converse. If so, you can ask his opinion about the question on the front, read to him the Bible's answer as shown inside, and consider a portion of the tract's contents, as time allows. Before leaving, show him the "To Think About" question on the back and arrange to return and discuss it.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM November 1

"In your opinion, what's the biggest lie that has been told about God? [Allow for response.] According to the Bible, God wants people to love and trust him. [Read Isaiah 41:13.] This magazine exposes three common lies about God that have made it difficult for some to draw close to him."

Awake!® November

"We are making a brief visit because many people are concerned that moral values seem to be eroding. Do you think that society has lowered its moral standards? [Allow for response.] The Bible foretold that people's attitude and behavior would change. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.] This magazine discusses why we can trust the moral values found in the Bible."

Field Service Highlights

In April 2013, special metropolitan public witnessing in the United States was expanded to include Atlanta, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. These cities join Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City, where the program has already been established. From September 2012 through March 2013, publishers at these displays placed 90,896 magazines and 66,263 books. Additionally, 5,173 Bible studies were requested. Jehovah is clearly blessing this new initiative to reach people with the good news.—1 Tim. 2:4.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 2013

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 11

Song 119 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jl Lessons 5-7 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Hebrews 1-8 (10 min.)

No. 1: Hebrews 4:1-16 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: How Can We Show That We Have "the Wisdom From Above"?—Jas. 3:17, 18 (5 min.)

No. 3: Is Loving One's Fellowman What Really Counts?—*rs* p. 327 ¶4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 73

10 min: How We Can Help to Meet the Needs of Others. Talk by an elder based on the November 15, 2013, *Watchtower,* pages 8-9.

10 min: How to Overcome Nervousness When Preaching. Discussion based on the following questions: (1) How can prayer help us if we are nervous at the door? (2) Why does good preparation help us to be less nervous? (3) What can help us be less nervous when working with the circuit overseer? (4) Why does nervousness decrease the more we share in the ministry? (5) What has helped you to overcome nervousness?

10 min: "Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Hosea." Questions and answers.

Song 113 and Prayer

Take as a Pattern the Prophets —Hosea

1 'What sacrifices am I willing to make for Jehovah?' Perhaps you have asked yourself that question when meditating on his abundant goodness and mercy. (Ps. 103:2-4; 116:12) Hosea willingly did what Jehovah commanded him to do, even though it required personal sacrifice. How can we imitate Hosea?

1. What question may you have asked yourself?

2 **Preach in Troublesome Season:** Hosea's message was directed primarily toward the ten-tribe kingdom of Israel, where true worship had nearly been stamped out. King Jeroboam II did what was bad in Jehovah's eyes and perpetuated the calf worship initiated by Jeroboam I. (2 Ki. 14:23, 24) The succeeding kings continued the spiritual decline of the ten-tribe kingdom until it was finally destroyed in 740 B.C.E. Yet, in spite of the prevailing false worship, Hosea faithfully served as a prophet for at least 59 years. Are we similarly determined to preach year after year, even when facing apathy or opposition? —2 Tim. 4:2.

3 **Focus on Jehovah's Mercy:** Jehovah instructed Hosea to marry "a wife of fornication." (Hos. 1:2) Although his wife, Gomer, bore him a son, she apparently later gave birth to two illegitimate children. Hosea's willingness to forgive his wife illustrated Jehovah's great mercy toward wayward Israel when they repented. (Hos. 3:1; Rom. 9:22-26) Are we willing to put aside personal preference in order to make known Jehovah's mercy to people of all sorts?—1 Cor. 9:19-23.

4 Some servants of Jehovah have sacrificed lucrative careers in order to devote more time to the ministry. Others have remained single or childless to pursue Kingdom interests. When reflecting on the life of Hosea, we may think to ourselves, 'I could never do what he did.' However, as we grow in appreciation for Jehovah's undeserved kindness and rely upon his holy spirit for strength, we may be used by him in ways we never thought possible, just as Hosea was.—Matt. 19:26; Phil. 2:13.

2. How can we imitate Hosea's fine example of persevering in the preaching work?
3. How did Hosea's life illustrate Jehovah's mercy?
4. What are some sacrifices that we might make for Jehovah?

WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 18

Song 20 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jl Lessons 8-10 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Hebrews 9-13 (10 min.)

No. 1: Hebrews 10:19-39 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Is Having a Personal Relationship With God the Really Important Thing?—*rs* p. 327 ¶5–p. 328 ¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: Ways in Which We Can Comfort Others—Rom. 15:4; 2 Cor. 1:3, 4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 10

10 min: Question Box. Discussion. Afterward, inform the congregation of the local progress being made in the campaign for *Kingdom News* No. 38.

10 min: "I Am Here *Because* . . ." Discussion. Afterward, mention the literature offer for December and have one or two demonstrations using the suggestions from the article.

10 min: Jehovah Listens to the Prayers of His Servants. (1 John 3:22) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 91, paragraphs 2-3, and pages 108-109. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

Song 56 and Prayer

QUESTION BOX

■ **Should a female publisher wear a head covering if she is accompanied by a male publisher at a doorstep Bible study?**

When a female publisher conducts a regular, scheduled Bible study and a male Kingdom publisher is present, she should wear a head covering. (1 Cor. 11:3-10) The July 15, 2002, issue of *The Watchtower,* page 27, explains: "This is a prearranged session of teaching where the one conducting the study actually presides. Under these circumstances, a study becomes an extension of the congregation. If a baptized female Witness conducts such a study with a baptized male Witness present, she would rightly wear a head covering." This is true whether the study is conducted in a home, at the doorstep, or in some other setting.

On the other hand, if a doorstep Bible study has not yet been established, a sister would not need to wear a head covering in the presence of a male Kingdom publisher, even if the purpose of the return visit is to demonstrate a Bible study or to consider material in one of the recommended study publications. Since doorstep studies are often established gradually, through a series of progressive return visits, publishers will need to consider the circumstances and be reasonable in determining at what point a head covering should be used.

"I Am Here *Because* . . ."

When householders open their door and see us standing there, they may wonder who we are and why we are there. What could we say in our introduction to put their mind at ease? After giving the customary greeting, some publishers use the word "because" to explain. For example, they may say: "We are visiting *because* many neighbors are concerned about crime. Do you think . . ." or "I am here *because* I give Bible lessons free of charge." If in the very beginning the householder is told *why* you are there, he may be more inclined to listen to *what* you have to say.

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WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 25

Song 122 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jl Lessons 11-13 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: James 1-5 (10 min.)
No. 1: James 1:22–2:13 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: How Love Overcomes Fear—1 John 4:16-18 (5 min.)
No. 3: Why Just Reading the Bible Is Not Sufficient—*rs* p. 328 ¶2-3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 95
10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in December. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask. Next, invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

10 min: How Should You Answer? Talk based on the *Ministry School* book, page 69, paragraphs 1-5. Include a demonstration of a publisher answering a Bible student who has to make a personal decision. The student asks, "What would you do in my situation?"

10 min: "A Helpful Series for Our Ministry." Questions and answers. Using a portion of a recent article from the series "A Conversation With a Neighbor," briefly demonstrate the suggestion in paragraph 3.

Song 45 and Prayer

A Helpful Series for Our Ministry

[1] From time to time, the public edition of *The Watchtower* features the series "A Conversation With a Neighbor." This series has a twofold objective—to present Bible teachings in an appealing way and to show us how we might reason tactfully on certain subjects. (1 Pet. 3:15) How can we make good use of these articles?

1. The series "A Conversation With a Neighbor" has what twofold objective?

[2] **Use Them in the Ministry:** You might save extra copies of issues of *The Watchtower* that include an article from this series. When a householder, interested person, or Bible student asks a question or raises an objection that has been addressed in one of these articles, give him a copy of that article and offer to discuss it. If you do not have a printed copy of the magazine that featured the article, perhaps you can download it from jw.org.

[3] How might you discuss one of these articles with someone? Some have invited the person to read aloud the words of the neighbor, while they read the words of the Witness. This third-person approach can be effective because it allows the individual to examine our beliefs in a way that does not make him feel uneasy.—Deut. 32:2.

[4] **Train Yourself and Others:** As you read through these articles, take note of the scriptures, illustrations, and lines of reasoning. Notice the tone of the material. Then try a similar approach in your ministry. (Prov. 1:5; 9:9) One sister observed, "Reading these articles is like learning from a 'perfect' pioneer partner—one who always knows just the right thing to say!"

[5] You can also use these scripted examples to help your Bible students prepare for the ministry. Read the information together, allowing the student to play the role of the publisher. In this way, Bible students can practice expressing their beliefs in a tactful manner. (Col. 4:6) Truly, these articles are one of the many ways that Jehovah helps us "fully accomplish" our ministry.—2 Tim. 4:5.

2. How can we use this series of articles in our ministry?
3. How might we discuss one of the articles with a householder?
4. How can we use the articles in this series to train ourselves?
5. How can we help our Bible students prepare for the ministry?

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 2

Song 123 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jl Lessons 14-16 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 Peter 1–2 Peter 3 (10 min.)

No. 1: 1 Peter 2:18–3:7 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: The Right Religion Is Bible-Based and Makes Known God's Name—*rs* p. 328 ¶4-5 (5 min.)

No. 3: Why We Are Sure That Jesus Is the Messiah—Luke 24:44; Gal. 4:4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 116

***5 min:* Start a Bible Study on the First Saturday.** Talk. Encourage all to share in starting Bible studies on the first Saturday in December. Briefly demonstrate how this may be done by using the back cover of *The Watchtower.*

15 min: Have You Tried It? Discussion. By means of a talk, briefly review information from these recent articles in *Our Kingdom Ministry:* "Our Official Web Site—Designed to Benefit Us and Others" (*km* 12/12), "Use Videos in Your Teaching," and "Who Would Be Interested in This?" (*km* 5/13). Invite audience to comment on how they have benefited from applying the suggestions in these articles.

10 min: Local needs.

Song 12 and Prayer

Announcements

■ **November:** Special campaign distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 38. If the congregation works all of its territory or places its entire supply of *Kingdom News,* publishers should offer *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **January and February**: Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.*

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in December

"Many people are looking for Jesus to return. If Jesus came back, what is one thing you would like him to do?" Allow for response. Show the back of the December 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM December 1

"Life is so busy these days that it can be a challenge to think about God. Do you think it's important to have God in our life? [Allow for response.] In his famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that we need spiritual values to be truly happy. [Read Matthew 5:3.] This magazine outlines three reasons why we need God."

Awake!® December

"Most of us form opinions based on what we hear or read in the news media. Do you think that the news we receive is accurate and truthful? [Allow for response.] The Bible recommends caution when it comes to trusting what we hear. [Read Job 12:11.] This magazine gives some tips to help us test out the words we hear and read."

Field Service Highlights

As of May 2013, there were 223 sign-language congregations and 58 groups in the 11 geographic locations cared for by the United States branch office. These are in 12 sign-language circuits. On average, 5,915 Bible studies are conducted each month in the sign-language field. Additionally, 15 sign-language congregations in Canada receive regular visits from a U.S. traveling overseer fluent in ASL. Certainly, these efforts are a fine expression of silent praise to Jehovah God.—Ps. 113:1.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2013

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 9

Song 84 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

jl Lessons 17-19 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: 1 John 1–Jude (10 min.)

No. 1: 1 John 5:1-21 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: How Should Jesus Christ Be Remembered?—Luke 1:32, 33; John 17:3 (5 min.)

No. 3: The Right Religion Demonstrates True Faith in Jesus Christ—*rs* p. 329 ¶1 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 5

15 min: The Theocratic Ministry School for 2014. Talk by the school overseer. Using the Theocratic Ministry School instructions for 2014, discuss points needing emphasis locally. Explain that if the Bible reading consists of the opening chapters of a book, the brother caring for the highlights will no longer develop material from the *"All Scripture"* book. In addition, when Assignments No. 2 and No. 3 refer to paragraphs in the *Reasoning* or *Insight* books, only paragraphs that are *indented* are to be counted. Encourage all to be diligent in fulfilling their assignments, in participating during the Bible highlights, and in applying the suggestions given weekly from the *Ministry School* book.

15 min: "How to Prepare Effective Introductions." Questions and answers. Demonstrate two introductions for offering the *Bible Teach* book, one that is not effective and afterward, one that is.

Song 60 and Prayer

How to Prepare Effective Introductions

[1] Just as a flavorful appetizer builds anticipation for the meal that follows, a good introduction opens the door to a positive Scriptural discussion. Effective introductions may vary in their length and content, but just like tasty food, they always require advance thought and preparation. (Prov. 15:28) What makes an introduction effective?

1. How important is it to have a good introduction?

[2] **Choose Topics of Interest:** Our introduction must arouse interest, or the householder may end the conversation. So when preparing, think about local interests. Are people in the community interested in good government, happy family life, or an end to war? People generally like to give their opinion, so prepare a thought-provoking viewpoint question. Could you use one of the sample introductions from *Our Kingdom Ministry* and adapt it to your territory? Why not occasionally practice some introductions during your Family Worship evening?

[3] **Consider Culture and Background:** In some places, we are expected to state the reason for our visit right away. In other places, it is considered impolite if a visitor does not first inquire about the welfare of the householder and perhaps share some personal information. In some areas, the religious background of people allows us to refer freely to the Bible in our introduction. (Acts 2:14-17) However, where people belong to a non-Christian religion, or to no religion at all, it may be better to mention the Bible on a return visit, rather than at the outset.—Acts 17:22-31.

[4] **The Opening Words:** Prepare your opening words carefully. Short, simple sentences are usually best. The way we deliver our opening words is also vital. Be enthusiastic. Have a sincere, friendly smile that reflects personal interest in the householder. Following these suggestions will help us to prepare appetizing introductions that will encourage people in our territory to feed at "the table of Jehovah." —1 Cor. 10:21.

2. How may we prepare an introduction that is interesting?
3. How may we tailor our introduction to the culture and background of those in our territory?
4. What attention should we give to the opening words of our introduction?

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 16

Song 116 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**

jl Lessons 20-22 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**

Bible reading: Revelation 1-6 (10 min.)

No. 1: Revelation 3:14–4:8 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: The True Religion Is Not Formalistic But Is a Way of Life—*rs* p. 329 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: In What Ways Did Jesus "Set the Pattern" for His Disciples?—John 13:15 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**

Song 44

10 min: What Did We Accomplish? Discussion by the service overseer. Inform the congregation how much of the territory was covered during the campaign for *Kingdom News* No. 38. Invite audience to comment on how they benefited from sharing in the campaign and to relate any outstanding experiences.

10 min: Let Youths Praise Jehovah. (Ps. 148:12, 13) Interview two or three exemplary youths. What challenges to their faith do they face at school? How have their parents and others helped them meet these challenges? What has given them the courage to speak up about their Christian beliefs? Invite them to relate experiences.

10 min: "Study of *Draw Close to Jehovah* Begins the Week of January 6." Questions and answers.

Song 75 and Prayer

Study of *Draw Close to Jehovah* Begins the Week of January 6

1 Jehovah wants us to draw close to him. (Jas. 4:8) To help us do that, beginning the week of January 6, we will study *Draw Close to Jehovah* at the Congregation Bible Study. Regarding the purpose of the book, the opening page states: "Pondering the way Jehovah manifests each of his qualities, seeing how Jesus Christ perfectly reflected them, and understanding how we too may cultivate them will draw us closer to God." Congregations previously considered this book during 2004 and 2005. However, for many of the approximately two million publishers who have come into the truth since then, this will be the first time that Jehovah's endearing qualities have been discussed in detail. For those who studied the book before, the review will help them to deepen their appreciation for Jehovah's attributes.—Ps. 119:14.

2 **How It Will Be Studied:** The conductor will begin with a brief introduction, perhaps one or two sentences. The material does not stipulate which scriptures should be read, so during the study the conductor will select key scriptures to read. One or two questions may be asked at the end of each lesson as a review. If the material includes the box "Questions for Meditation," this will be used as the review. As time permits, the conductor can have some of the cited verses in the box read and then ask auxiliary questions to draw out comments from the audience.

3 **Benefit Fully:** Prepare in advance even if you previously studied this book. Have a share in commenting, as this will bring praise to Jehovah, help you to remember the information, and benefit others in attendance. (Ps. 35:18; Heb. 10:24, 25) As you meditate on Jehovah's matchless qualities, you will draw closer to him. (Ps. 77:11-13) In turn, you will be more determined to obey his commandments and more motivated to tell others about him.—Ps. 150:1-6.

1. Beginning the week of January 6, what opportunities will we have to draw closer to Jehovah?

2. How will *Draw Close to Jehovah* be studied?

3. As the book is being considered, what should we do and why?

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WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 23

Song 127 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jl Lessons 23-25 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Revelation 7-14 (10 min.)
No. 1: Revelation 9:1-21 (4 min. or less)
No. 2: Ways in Which True Christians Can Show Genuine Hospitality—Heb. 13:2 (5 min.)
No. 3: Members of the Right Religion Love One Another and Keep Separate From the World—*rs* p. 329 ¶3-4 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 124
10 min: The Offer for January and February. Discussion. Consider features of the literature being offered, and have two presentations demonstrated.
20 min: "Helping Those Who Are Not Yet Ready for the *Bible Teach* Book." Questions and answers. Demonstrate one of the suggestions from page 6.
Song 46 and Prayer

Helping Those Who Are Not Yet Ready for the *Bible Teach* Book

1 In order for someone to become a worshipper of Jehovah, he must learn what the Bible teaches. However, some belong to a non-Christian religion and do not consider the Bible to be God's Word. Others do not believe in God at all and lack respect for the Bible. Which tools have proved to be helpful for those who are not initially inclined to accept the *Bible Teach* book? The suggestions below are based on the comments of publishers from some 20 different countries.

2 **Those Who Do Not Believe in God:** If someone says that he does not believe in God, it is beneficial to find out why. Is it because he believes in evolution? Has he lost faith in God because of the injustice in the world or the hypocrisy in religion? Is he from a land that suppressed belief in God? Perhaps he does not adamantly deny God's existence, but he has never felt the need to believe in Him. Many publishers find that asking, "Have you always felt that way?" prompts the person to explain. Listen and do not interrupt. When we understand *why* the person does not believe in God, we will know *how* to reply and which publication to offer.—Prov. 18:13.

3 When replying, take care to avoid making the person feel that you are attacking his viewpoint. This suggestion came from the United States: "It is very important to respect the personal freedom of individuals to decide what they believe. Rather than seeking to win arguments, it is best to pose questions that make people think and reach their own conclusions." After hearing the householder express himself, one traveling overseer often prefaces his reply by asking, "Have you ever considered this as a possibility?"

4 The concept of God is foreign to many who are Buddhist. Some publishers in Britain like to use the brochure *Lasting Peace and Happiness—How to Find Them* when witnessing to such ones. After considering the introduction, they discuss the section "Is There Really a Most High Creator?" and then the section "A Guidebook for the Blessing of All Mankind." Afterward, they may be able to introduce the *Bible Teach* book and tell the householder, "Even if you do not believe in God, studying the Bible is beneficial because it contains much practical guidance." A pioneer in the United States who is serving in the Chinese field said: "Many in our territory enjoy reading. So they often read the entire publication before we return. But they may not understand the concept of a Bible study. So I like to offer the *Good News* brochure on the initial call because it is written in a way that encourages discussion." A circuit overseer

1. Will the *Bible Teach* book appeal to everyone initially? Explain.
2. If someone tells us that he does not believe in God, what should we try to find out, and why?
3. How can we demonstrate respect for the person and his beliefs?
4. How may we help those who are Buddhist?

serving in a Chinese-language circuit in the United States reports that it is possible to introduce the *Bible Teach* book on the initial call. However, it may be better to start the study in chapter 2, which gives an introduction to the Bible, rather than in chapter 1, which discusses God.

[5] It takes time for someone to build faith in God, so patience is vital. Our initial conversations may not move a person to agree that a Creator exists. But perhaps in time he will acknowledge that it *might* be possible, or he may say that he understands why someone could come to that conclusion.

[6] **Those Who Lack Interest or Confidence in the Bible:** Often, however, a person who acknowledges that God may exist is not interested in what the Bible teaches because he does not believe that it is God's Word. Perhaps he lives in a non-Christian land and associates the Bible with Christendom. Or he may live in a so-called Christian land that is very secular, and he may not think that the Bible will be useful to him. How can we help such ones to develop interest in the Bible and eventually accept a study in the *Bible Teach* book?

[7] The branch office in Greece wrote: "The best way to help people who lack interest in the Bible is simply to open the Bible and

5. Why is patience important?
6. Why may some people lack interest in the Bible?
7. What is often a good way to stimulate interest in the Bible?

If the householder says he does not believe in God, try this:

- Ask, "Have you always felt that way?" to find out why.
- If he is a Buddhist, use the brochure *Lasting Peace and Happiness—How to Find Them,* pages 9-12.
- If he believes in evolution, these references may be helpful:

  The *Awake!* series "Was It Designed?"

  The video *The Wonders of Creation Reveal God's Glory*

  The brochures *A Satisfying Life—How to Attain It,* section 4; *Was Life Created?;* and *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*

- If he has lost faith in God because of injustice and suffering, these references may be helpful:

  The book *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?,* chapter 10

  The brochures *Does God Really Care About Us?,* part 6, and *What Is the Purpose of Life?,* section 6

- Switch to the *Bible Teach* book as soon as the householder is open to the idea that God may exist. It may be good to begin with chapter 2 or another subject appropriate for him.

Experiences

■ **Australia:** John, an educated man, went to church as a child but became a "staunch atheist." A pioneer left him the brochure *Was Life Created?* and then on a subsequent visit left the *Origin of Life* brochure. The pioneer continued cultivating his interest by bringing him the latest magazines and featuring any articles on creation or Bible prophecy. When he thought John was ready, he offered him the book *The Bible —God's Word or Man's?* After reading it, John began describing himself as a "mild agnostic." The pioneer then introduced the *Bible Teach* book, showing John paragraph 8 on page 20 and paragraphs 13-16 on pages 23-24. The scriptures cited in the material impressed John so much that he said, "Maybe I need to give the Bible another chance."

■ **Mexico:** One man told a publisher that he did not believe that the Bible was inspired by God. The publisher offered to show him proof of the Bible's inspiration. After some discussions, the man's heart began to be affected by what he was learning from the Bible. He was especially moved when he learned about god-

Try this if the householder does not believe in the Bible:

- Consider chapters 17 and 18 of the book *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*
- For Hindus, use the brochure *Why Should We Worship God in Love and Truth?*
- For Jews, use the brochure *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?,* pages 3-11.
- Discuss the benefits of following Bible principles. Publications that you can use to show someone the practical value of the Bible are:

  The *Awake!* series "Help for the Family"

  The video *The Bible—Its Power in Your Life*

  The brochures *Good News From God!,* lessons 9 and 11; *A Book for All People,* pages 22-26; and *A Satisfying Life—How to Attain It,* section 2

  For Buddhists, use the brochure *The Pathway to Peace and Happiness,* pages 3-7.

  For Muslims, use the brochure *Real Faith —Your Key to a Happy Life,* section 3.

  If you are preaching in an area where there is prejudice against the Bible, it may be best not to identify the source of the wise sayings you are sharing until you have made several visits.
- Explain how Bible prophecies have come true. Publications you can use are:

  The video *The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy*

  The brochure *A Book for All People,* pages 27-29
- Switch to the *Bible Teach* book as soon as the person asks what the Bible teaches on various topics.

show them what it contains. Many publishers have noticed that the influence of the Bible's message on a person's heart is more powerful than anything they personally might say. (Heb. 4:12) Seeing God's name in the Bible has helped many to develop a desire to peer into the Bible." The branch office in India wrote: "The truth about life and death really attracts many Hindus—so does the Bible's promise of a world without caste discrimination." Alluding to problems of local concern often gives publishers an opportunity to show what the Bible says God's Kingdom will do to rectify matters.

[8] If someone has a negative view of the Bible because of Christendom, let him know that Christendom has misrepresented the Bible and its teachings. The branch office in India wrote: "At times, we need to help individuals see that churches are not the custodians of the Bible." They reported that Hindus are often impressed by section 4 of the brochure *What Is the Purpose of Life? How Can You Find It?,* which explains how the churches have tried to adulterate and

8. What could we say to those who have a negative view of the Bible because of Christendom?

ly standards. He told the publisher: "At first when you and I would read the Bible together, it seemed like advice from any other book and it didn't affect me. But now when we read from it, particularly its counsel about morality, my heart hurts."

■ **United States:** While engaging in special metropolitan witnessing, a couple met a woman from Taiwan who believed in God but felt that the Bible was for Westerners. She came to their literature display because she felt lost even though she had a privileged life. She was hoping that the Bible would help her find purpose in life. The couple started a study with her using the *Bible Teach* book along with the brochure *Lasting Peace and Happiness—How to Find Them.* Instead of studying chapter 2 in the book, they discussed the section in the brochure entitled "A Guidebook for the Blessing of All Mankind." After considering the first six paragraphs in that section, the woman expressed amazement that the Bible is so unique in comparison to other religious writings. After considering Bible prophecies that have been fulfilled, she said, "There is no other book that I can think of that is as accurate as the Bible!"

If the householder says: "I don't believe in God," you might say:

- "May I briefly explain what has convinced *me* to believe in a Creator?" Then share points from the *Reasoning* book, pages 84-86, or make arrangements to bring the person a publication that you enjoyed reading.
- "But *if there were a God,* how would you like him to be?" Most householders reply that they would be drawn to a God of love, justice, and mercy, one who is impartial. Show him from the Bible that God has such qualities. (It may even be possible to use chapter 1 of the *Bible Teach* book, starting with paragraph 6.)

If the householder says: "I don't believe in the Bible," you might say:

- "There are many who feel that way. Some are of the impression that the Bible is not scientific or that Bible standards are impractical. Tell me, have you ever read the Bible before? [Allow for response. Then show the introduction on page 3 of the brochure *A Book for All People,* and offer the brochure.] Many have discredited the Bible because religion has misrepresented its teachings. Next time, I would like to discuss an example from pages 4 and 5."
- "Many people share your view. May I show you something that impresses me about the Bible? [Read Job 26:7 or Isaiah 40:22, which show that the Bible is scientifically accurate.] The Bible also contains wise sayings to help families. Next time, I would like to show you an example."
- "Thank you for telling me that. If God *did* write a book for mankind, what do you think it would contain?" Then show the person something from the Bible that agrees with his comment.

destroy God's Word. A pioneer in Brazil tells people: "Why not find out more about the Bible's contents? Many people are doing this with an open mind, with no obligation to any religious affiliation. You may be surprised by what you learn."

[9] Jehovah looks at each person's heart. (1 Sam. 16:7; Prov. 21:2) He is drawing those with the right heart condition to true worship. (John 6:44) Many such ones were never taught about God or had little exposure to the Bible. Our ministry gives them a chance to "be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) Therefore, if some are not initially interested in what the Bible teaches, do not give up! Use one of the tools available in your language to stimulate their interest. Eventually, you may be able to transfer the discussion to our primary tool for conducting Bible studies, the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

9. Why should we not give up if someone is not initially interested in what the Bible teaches?

■ **Japan:** Although a householder told a publisher that he did not believe in God, the publisher continued making brief calls on him, sharing the articles in *Awake!* entitled "Was It Designed?" Gradually, the man changed his viewpoint and began admitting that there may be a Creator. Now he believes that there is a God, and the publisher is studying with him out of the brochure *Good News From God!*

■ **Canada:** A sister placed the latest magazines with a woman who was leaving her house and walking to her car. When the sister returned later, the woman adamantly told her that she was not interested and did not believe in God. The sister decided not to give up but to bring her the brochure *A Satisfying Life—How to Attain It.* When the sister found the woman at home, she told her that although she knew that the woman did not believe in God, she had been thinking of her because the sister knew that she was a single parent. She showed the woman paragraph 6 on page 4 of the brochure, which discusses where to find good advice. Then she encouraged her to read the suggestions in lesson 2 regarding raising children. The woman was very happy to take the brochure.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 30

Song 126 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
jl Lessons 26-28 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Revelation 15-22 (10 min.)
Theocratic Ministry School Review (20 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 43
10 min: "Help Them Be 'Stabilized in the Faith.'" Talk. Afterward, briefly demonstrate how to use the magazines to start a study on the first Saturday in January. Encourage all to have a share.
10 min: Help Your Child to Become a Publisher. Talk based on page 82, paragraphs 1-2, of the *Organized* book. Interview an exemplary parent with a child who is an unbaptized publisher. How did he help his child to progress and qualify to become a publisher?
10 min: We Are Never Alone. (2 Ki. 6:16) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook,* page 48, paragraphs 1-3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.
Song 119 and Prayer

Help Them Be "Stabilized in the Faith"

It is exciting to see how Jehovah is blessing the ingathering, with over a quarter of a million people being baptized each year. (Deut. 28:2) Once a publisher helps a student to baptism, the tendency may be for the publisher to discontinue the study and focus on helping others. The student may also be inclined to stop the study in order to devote more time to the ministry. However, it is important for Bible students to have a good foundation in the truth. They need to be "rooted" in Christ and "stabilized in the faith." (Col. 2:6, 7; 2 Tim. 3:12) Therefore, after a student gets baptized, he should continue his Bible study until he has completed both the *Bible Teach* and the *"God's Love"* books.—See the April 2011 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 2.

Theocratic Ministry School Review

The following questions will be considered at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 30, 2013. The date when each point is scheduled for discussion is included so that research can be done when preparing for the school each week.

1. What will help us to exhibit mildness when dealing with secular authorities? (Titus 3:2) [Nov. 4, *w03* 4/1 p. 25 pars. 18-19]
2. What can we learn from Paul's words to Philemon as recorded at Philemon 4, 5, and 7? [Nov. 4, *w08* 10/15 p. 31 pars. 1, 2; *w92* 4/15 p. 25 par. 2]
3. How do we enter into God's rest? (Heb. 4:9-11) [Nov. 11, *w11* 7/15 p. 28 pars. 16, 17]
4. What can we learn from Samuel and the faithful judges and prophets who effected "righteousness"? (Heb. 11:32, 33) [Nov. 18, *w11* 1/1 p. 25 pars. 5, 6]
5. Why did James write that "the wisdom from above is first of all chaste, then peaceable"? (Jas. 3:17) [Nov. 25, *w11* 8/15 pp. 30-31 par. 15]
6. Who were "the dead" to whom "the good news was declared"? (1 Pet. 4:6) [Dec. 2, *w08* 11/15 p. 21 par. 8]
7. According to 1 John 2:7, 8, what commandment is John speaking of as being "old" as well as "new"? [Dec. 9, *w08* 12/15 p. 27 par. 6]
8. To whom do the titles "the Alpha and the Omega" and "the First and the Last" refer? (Rev. 1:8, 17) [Dec. 16, *w09* 1/15 p. 30 par. 6]
9. In what two ways are anointed Christians "sealed"? (Rev. 7:3) [Dec. 23, *w07* 1/1 p. 31 par. 2]
10. Why can we be absolutely certain that foretold blessings under Kingdom rule will become a reality, and how should we be affected by this knowledge? (Rev. 21:5, 6) [Dec. 30, *re* p. 304 par. 9]

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 6

Song 132 and Prayer

❑ **Congregation Bible Study:**
cl p. 3 and chap. 1, ¶1-9 (30 min.)

❑ **Theocratic Ministry School:**
Bible reading: Genesis 1-5 (10 min.)

No. 1: Genesis 4:1-16 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Members of the Right Religion Are Active Witnesses Concerning God's Kingdom—*rs* p. 330 ¶1 (5 min.)

No. 3: Aaron—Ways in Which Aaron Was a Good Example for Christians—*it*-1 pp. 9-10 ¶3 (5 min.)

❑ **Service Meeting:**
Song 125

10 min: Ideas for Offering the Magazines in January. Discussion. Take 30 to 60 seconds to relate why the magazines will have appeal in your territory. Then, using the cover subject of *The Watchtower,* invite the audience to give suggestions on an interest-arousing question to ask. Next, invite suggestions on a scripture to read. Do the same for *Awake!* and, if time allows, for one other article from either magazine. Demonstrate how each issue may be offered.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 read. Consider how these verses can help us in our ministry.

Song 7 and Prayer

Announcements

■ Literature offer for **December:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* or *Would You Like to Know the Truth?* **January and February**: Feature one of the following 32-page brochures: *Good News From God!, Listen to God,* or *Listen to God and Live Forever.* **March:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

■ The Memorial for **2015** will be Friday, April 3, 2015.

■ Donations for the worldwide work that are sent directly to the branch office should be made payable to "Watchtower." The branch office's financial address is Watchtower, c/o Accounting Office, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. If you would like to donate electronically, ask your congregation secretary about the July 8, 2013, letter to all congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Sample Presentations

To Start Bible Studies on the First Saturday in January

"Most people have their own opinion about God. Some think of God as a mysterious force. Others picture him as a loving heavenly Father. What do you imagine God to be like?" Allow for response. Show the back of the January 1 *Watchtower,* and consider together the material under the first question and at least one of the cited scriptures. Offer the magazines, and arrange to return to discuss the next question.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM January 1

"We are making brief visits to talk about something that affects all of us—the death of a loved one. Would you agree that losing a dear friend or relative is one of the hardest things to deal with? [Allow for response.] Many have found this Bible verse to be comforting. [Read Isaiah 25:8.] This magazine discusses the Bible's encouraging promise to end death and bring our loved ones back to life."

Awake!® January

"Would you agree that families face many pressures today? [Allow for response.] This Bible proverb tells us what families must have in order to build up and fortify their household. [Read Proverbs 24:3.] Many have found the Bible to be a reliable source of wisdom. This magazine discusses a unique, Bible-based Web site that has some free tools to help families."

Field Service Highlights

During the first ten months of the 2013 service year, 66 brothers graduated from three classes of the Bible School for Single Brothers in the United States. Additionally, 432 brothers and sisters graduated from 18 classes of the Bible School for Christian Couples. For the 2014 service year, 47 classes of these schools are planned in the United States and Puerto Rico. Jehovah is equipping these willing brothers and sisters with "every good thing to do his will."—Heb. 13:21.

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